

FRIDAY 16 AUGUST  
ALL  
It move  
ackburn  
locked

During his final training session with Dortmund and may make his Liverpool debut against Middlesbrough.  
Even if he does return, he may not face Borussia Dortmund's two weeks, after returning to the Olympic Games in Atlanta with a knee ligament injury.  
Ashton Villa will be the main target for the move, as Mark Bosnich for their move at Sheffield Wednesday. I missed the entire pre-season programme with a foot injury and suffered a knee injury, placed by the England U21 goalkeeper Michael Oke. Villa hope to obtain a new permit for Sasa Kuric, signed from Bolton on Wednesday. As Sasa also has a work permit, which expires in October, I would not be thought there would be any problems from the Department of Employment. Doug Ellis, Villa chairman, said.  
John Pemberton made a trio of absentees for Le United. With Tony Veeboer, Tony Dorogio definitely out, defender had a cartilage operation yesterday.  
Andy Cole is likely to be only player unavailable at Manchester United as they begin their defence of the title. Wimbledon, Alex Ferguson ruled out an approach. Miguel Nadal, the Barça defender. "Nadal is one many foreign players we look at and we made inquiry about him some weeks ago," Manchester United manager said. "But now that the European deadline has passed, matter is now dead."  
Uefa will offer English clubs the chance to play this season in the top places in the next season's Champions League, part of an eight country consortium comprising the champions: England, Italy, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal and Belgium.  
The Premiership winners will be among the seeds who straight in to the group stage in the 1997-98 season and runners-up will also be put in the two-legged qualifying round against the champions in smaller countries - that is, Scotland - for a place in the new 24-team competition. Ray Clennace has resigned as manager of Barnet to join Ipswich's England coaching set-up.

on descends  
ce at Arsenal  
sacking him. Winning a place in the new blood and a style was a reasonable achievement. Especially when it was earned by a player who had been in the first team for a long time.  
"He asked for a move," said the Arsenal manager. "I said, 'I'm sorry, but I can't do that.'"  
Yet while Arsenal's hand of the matter has been a little shaky and uncertain, the club does deserve some credit for its handling of the situation. It would be a bold move to let a player of his calibre go, but an anonymous Arsenal source says the club has been in the Arsenal camp since the time and resources to do so.

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# THE INDEPENDENT

3,067 SATURDAY 17 AUGUST 1996 WEATHER 50p (press)

## Booming back to the Eighties

Shares soar and credit card sales set a new record

**MICHAEL HARRISON and MAGUS GRIMOND**

Fresh evidence that Britain is on the verge of an Eighties-style boom emerged yesterday as the stock market roared to an all-time high, speeding by plastic broke new records and an inflation survey forecast the biggest rise yet in house prices.

The triple whammy of upbeat news on the economy raised hopes of a further cut in interest rates but also revived fears of an unsustainable consumer boom in the run-up to the next election.

The FTSE-100 index of Britain's leading companies ended the day 35.5 points higher at a record 3,873 as lower public borrowing figures and renewed hopes of interest-rate cuts sent shares soaring.

Meanwhile, a report from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research said that economic conditions were now similar to those a decade ago when Britain witnessed the biggest boom in the property market since the Second World War. The institute is predicting an increase in house prices of more than 10 per cent next year.

The euphoria in the City of London was spurred by a spate of recent good economic news, culminating yesterday in further evidence of booming sales to the consumer and strong public finances. John Lewis, the department store chain, revealed that sales rose 23 per cent in the first week of August, compared with a year ago. It expected sales to be 7.5 per cent higher in the latest six months of the year.

Meanwhile, the British Retail Consortium said that credit-card sales in the high street broke the £1bn barrier for the first time in the second quarter of the year. Andrew Sentance, BRC's senior economic adviser, said this reflected the general improvement in the climate over the first half of the year.

Economists said official figures showing that central and local government repaid £1.66bn in debt last month had put the Government's forecasts for public borrowing back on track and would strengthen the hand of the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, for tax cuts in November's Budget. Hopes that he may override the opposition of Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, to further interest-rate cuts were fuelled by rumours that the Bundesbank may lower German rates on Thursday.

Adam Cole, an economist at stockbrokers HSBC James Capel, said the Chancellor could "hang another rate cut" on last week's inflation figures, which showed the underlying rate of retail price rises unchanged in the three months to July, while the underlying level of industry's costs are at their lowest for a generation.

But yesterday's borrowing figures will give renewed encouragement that Mr Clarke will have scope to cut taxes as well in his November Budget. After overshooting the Treasury's £26.9bn target so far this year, economists said the July figures are back in line.

However, observers warned that much of yesterday's enthusiasm could dry up later in the year. The market was partly driven by technical considerations deriving from the futures market and political uncertainties and arguments over monetary policy could return to haunt equities.

Richard Kersley, at brokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd warned that markets had not factored in fully the prospect of a Labour government and said new worries may emerge around the time of the party conferences in the autumn - "Squabbles between Eddie George and Ken Clarke, concerns that monetary policy is too loose".

The NIESR said that the real cost of buying a house was at its lowest level since 1989. It also pointed to the high level of loans that banks and building societies are prepared to advance against properties. It estimates that the loan-to-value ratio is the highest since mortgage lending was deregulated 30 years ago.

Earlier this week the Halifax, Britain's biggest mortgage lender gave a further boost to the housing market by offering to indemnify buyers from being caught by negative equity.

Footsie hits new highs, page 16



## How Methley Terrace launched a turf war against the car



Grass grows under their feet: Children playing in Leeds before and after Transport 2000 and local residents launched the Streets for People campaign to encourage traffic reduction

## NHS not to fund octuplet treatment

**LIZ HUNT**  
Health Editor

The "cash for foetuses" controversy surrounding Mandy Allwood, the woman pregnant with eight babies, has taken a new twist last night when the Midlands health authority responsible for her care said it would not pay for her specialist treatment in London.

An assumption that Ms Allwood's medical bills would be met by the *News of the World*, with which she and her partner Paul Hudson signed a six-figure deal, turned out to be false.

Solihull Health Authority said Ms Allwood's GP had contacted it asking if it would pay for her care under Professor Kypros Nicolaides, a renowned ante-natal expert at King's College Hospital, London.

Senior health authority officials yesterday rejected the request, arguing that that Ms Allwood, 31, would receive expert care far more cheaply in a Birmingham maternity hospital. A spokesman denied that the deal with the newspaper had influenced the decision.

Dr Michael Deakin, a consultant in public health medicine, said: "We would have reached the same decision whether or not a newspaper was involved. It is important for her to have excellent maternity care locally and it is available. It is ridiculous that she should be living in Solihull but being cared for by someone in London."

However, a consultant obstetrician in the Midlands, who asked not to be named, said that

## Cheating universities poach thousands of students

**FRAN ABRAMS**  
Education Correspondent

Thousands of students are being poached by universities which often simply telephone them and offer them places after seeing their A-level results, the head of the admissions service has warned.

Some universities are encouraging young people to apply direct to them, bypassing the admissions regulations, while others are looking at the A-level grades and phoning up students who have done better than expected.

Further education colleges which run higher education courses have been particularly hard hit, with some saying that in past years they have lost hundreds of students to poachers from universities. They only know that this has been happening when their own recruits fail to turn up in September.

Some sources say that many new universities would not be concerned even if the official entrance system collapsed, as they get a majority of their students by unofficial means. The official way for students to get into university is to apply through the admissions service before Christmas the previous year. They can then accept one offer and keep another for lower grades as a kind of insurance. If they meet the necessary requirements of either one, they must take it up. The clearing system exists to match up spare places with students who have nowhere to go.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), has written to vice-chancellors in an attempt to persuade them not to take part in any underhand dealings.

Too many students are being asked by universities to bypass the official system, he says, and some have even drawn up their own application forms for unofficial entrants.

Mr Higgins has also written to several universities individually to warn them that there have been complaints about their recruitment methods.

He said the system was set up to prevent chaos and to help both students and universities. A proposed system under which everyone would apply after the A-level results came out would prevent such problems occurring, he added.

"All freedom is based on restrictions. The whole system is geared to the candidates' needs so that everybody is applying under the same rules. Universities don't want to find in October that they are thousands light of their targets," he said.

Julian Gravatt, senior registrar at Lewisham College, south London, said it had lost students in the past, often to much larger institutions. "Both the university and the student would say that it was better for them, but it isn't always true. There is a possible problem with dropping along the line because those places don't offer the supportive environment to students that we can," he said.

Ted Neild, spokesman for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, condemned the practice. Before the central admissions service was set up in 1961, universities never knew how many of their students would turn up because they might easily have accepted two or more offers, he said.

"Actions like these, if they are occurring, pose a threat to the integrity of the central admissions service which has done everybody so much good."

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<b>QUICKLY</b>	<b>Lebed on offensive</b>	<b>CONTENTS</b>
<b>£70m to smash IRA</b>	Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to Chechnya, Alexander Lebed, yesterday demanded the dismissal of Russia's powerful Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov, denouncing him as "one of the main culprits in the war" Page 9	Section 1
<b>Costly commissioner</b>	Gill Rowlands, Commissioner for Protection against Unlawful Industrial Action, cost taxpayers £92,803 last year, and was unable to help any of those who asked for her help. Page 4	<b>BUSINESS &amp; CITY</b> ..... 16-17
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**Ulster scandal: Cabinet papers reveal that ministers wasted £70m to secure 'hammer blow'**

## De Lorean cash used in battle with IRA

ANTHONY BEVINS  
and MICHAEL HARRISON

The Callaghan and Thatcher governments of the late 1970s and early 1980s blew more than £70m of public money on the ill-fated De Lorean car project in West Belfast, because it was hoped that it would help provide "a hammer blow to the IRA", according to previously secret government papers.

The revelation is one of several sensational disclosures in Cabinet and ministerial papers that are being released into the public domain by a New York court next week.

The hearing, in which the Government is suing auditors Arthur Andersen, is part of long-fought preliminaries before the action comes to court. It was decided on Thursday that the papers could be made public, and in a London press release last night the auditors provide the first evidence of how ministers repeatedly ignored warnings about De Lorean because they were so desperate to give Ulster jobs and good news.

The papers even include Cabinet minutes - which were notably excluded from the evidence given in the Matrix Churchill case. In one critical minute from July 1978, the

then Northern Ireland Secretary, Roy Mason, says it is "of the utmost political, social and psychological importance that the project should go ahead. This would be a hammer blow to the IRA". His advice followed a warning the previous week by the management consultants McKinsey and Co that "the chances of the project succeeding as planned are remote".

The profligacy did not end with Labour. In July 1980, the Thatcher government agreed to provide assistance, of £14m extendable to £21m, on the advice of the Northern Ireland Secretary, James Prior.

When De Lorean hit a further financial crisis the following February, the Cabinet was asked for a bank guarantee. It was argued: "We cannot settle this on commercial grounds alone. The De Lorean venture has become something of a symbol for HMG's commitment to Northern Ireland."

Mrs Thatcher wrote a note saying: "I take it this is the last [doubly underlined] help we give to this unwise project." The company went into liquidation one year later.

The Government began its legal action against Arthur Andersen in 1985, but 11 years later - and 14 years after De Lorean



Road to nowhere: John De Lorean in his ill-fated car in 1982. More than £70m was blown on the project Photograph: PA

collapsed - the case has yet to come to court. It took two years just to decide which country the action should take place in: the auditors wanted it heard in Britain; the Northern Ireland Department of Economic Development wanted it held in the US, where courts can award triple damages in the event of the plaintiff successfully suing.

For two years between 1989 and 1991, the Government and Arthur Andersen fought a separate case over whether the Cabinet minutes and other confidential Whitehall documents relating to the collapse should be made available to the defence. Such documents are not normally released for 30 years, but the court eventually ruled

in Arthur Andersen's favour. In April this year, Judge Mukasey of the New York southern district court dismissed the Government's case for the action to be heard under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act, which would have permitted it to claim damages of up to \$18m.

The judge also told the Government that if it wanted to keep any of the Cabinet documents under seal then it would have to show compelling justification. On Thursday night, in an historic ruling, he decided that it had not done so.

In the last five years, depositions have been taken in writing and on video camera from hundreds of witnesses, includ-

ing government ministers involved at the time, senior civil servants and consultants. Until yesterday they remained locked in lawyers' safes in New York.

The team of consultants from McKinsey and Co that advised the Government on the project was led by Sir John Banham, who went on to become director general of the CBI and head of the Government Commission on Local Government.

In his deposition, Sir John says: "There are very few projects where hindsight and foresight seem quite so clearly aligned."

De Lorean Motors was formed in 1978 when John De Lorean, now 71, a former Chrysler executive, persuaded the then Labour government to

back his dream of a stainless steel, gull-winged sports car. The Government's Department of Economic Development ploughed £7m into the project, much of which was siphoned off into Swiss bank accounts by Mr De Lorean and other senior executives. The venture finally collapsed in 1982 with the loss of more than 2,000 jobs. Only 8,333 cars were built.

Although a warrant was issued for Mr De Lorean's arrest, he never faced trial. In 1984, he was acquitted of cocaine trafficking after a US jury decided he had been entrapped by FBI undercover agents.

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

The Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, said yesterday that the Conservatives would robustly defend their "demonic" Tony Blair poster, after the chairman of the Advertising Standards Authority confirmed it was in possible breach of its code. The "New Labour, New Danger" poster, depicting the Labour leader with fiery eyes, was compared by Mr Portillo to the 1992 campaign poster, issued by Labour, which featured then-Chancellor, Norman Lamont, as "Vatman", in Batman garb. Anthony Bevins

A dozen RUC officers and their families have had to flee their homes because of threats, police revealed last night. They were forced out in the aftermath of the Orange Order stand-off at Drumcree, loyalist protests over the handling of the Apprentice Boys parade in Londonderry and a march in the village of Dunloy, Co Antrim.

Finding a resting place for the symbolic rock of Scotland's ancient sovereignty, the Stone of Scone, will prove to be a difficult choice. The Secretary of State, Michael Forsyth, put the matter out for public consultation. Almost 80 suggestions, some brilliant, some bizarre, some expected, had been submitted by the deadline yesterday. Odds-on favourite is Edinburgh Castle. St Giles Cathedral on Edinburgh's Royal Mile is also in the running.

Ulster's meat plants were under pressure last night to resume the BSE cattle cull. It was suspended by the Meat Exporters' Association after negotiations with the Department of Agriculture over the cost of killing the 30-month-old cattle broke down. Ulster Farmers' Union president Greer McCollum said: "They should stop playing around with the livelihoods of beef farmers."

Richard Burden: In the issue of 9 August, Don Macintyre wrote that the Labour MP Richard Burden had last year accused Tony Blair of being Stalin in the making. While making sharp criticisms of Mr Blair's leadership style, Mr Burden did not compare him to Stalin.

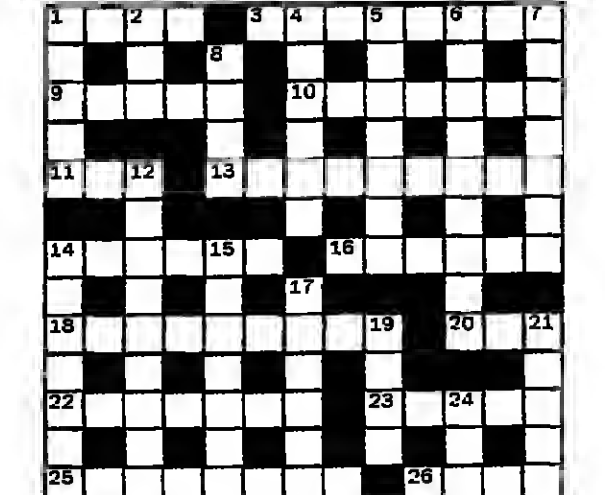
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### CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3068 Saturday 17 August By Spunus

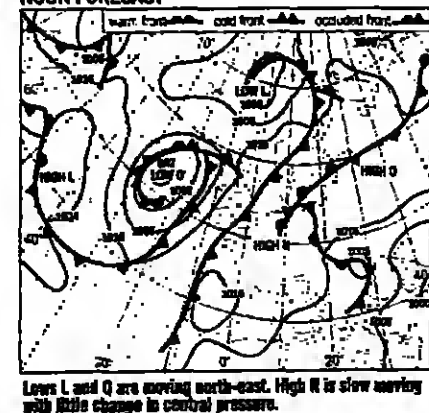


- ACROSS**
- Tip (4)
  - Apprehended (8)
  - Light wood (5)
  - Dramatic scene (7)
  - Gentle blow (3)
  - Continental roll (9)
  - Ghost (6)
  - Mongrel (6)
  - Harsh (9)
  - Health resort (3)
  - Express strong disapproval of (7)
  - Bric-a-brac article (5)
  - Anything much sought-after (4,4)
  - Leave out (4)
- DOWN**
- Custom (5)
  - Zero (3)
  - Share (6)
  - Legation (7)
  - Reference book (9)
  - Cowed (7)
  - Soft, pliable mineral (4)
  - Chief (9)
  - Lively party (7)
  - Thoroughly chilled (3-4)
  - Precious stones (6)
  - Credit (4)
  - Concerning (5)
  - Edge (3)

**Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:**  
ACROSS: 1 Dollar, 4 Might (Dolomite), 8 Ulcer, 9 San Juan, 10 Landing, 11 Flap, 12 Err, 13 Acid, 15 Each, 18 Rum, 21 Ally, 23 Amateur, 25 Poltergeist, 26 Evict, 27 Range, 28 Attend, DOWN: 1 Double, 2 Laconic, 3 Airliner, 4 Monk, 5 Gravel, 6 Lunden, 7 Usage, 13 Red alert, 16 Crevise, 17 Dapper, 18 Maye, 20 Grated, 22 Latin, 24 Very.

### Notes

### NOON FORECAST



Low L and Q are moving north-east. High H is slow moving with little change in central pressure.

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12-15	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Birmingham	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Manchester	10-13	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Newcastle	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Glasgow	10-13	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Seaside	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy

### WORLD WEATHER

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12-15	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Birmingham	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Manchester	10-13	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Newcastle	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Glasgow	10-13	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Seaside	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy

### TODAY'S FORECAST

South and the Western Isles will be cloudy with rain and a freshening southerly wind. The Northern Isles will have some rain, after a fine start. The rest of Scotland and Ireland will see grey cloud giving way to spells of warm sunshine with a breeze from the north. All of England and Wales will get some very warm sunshine and patchy cloud, but with retreating breezes for south facing coasts.

### OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS

BATTS: Sunday will see very warm sunshine, but with showers in N Ireland and western Scotland. Heavy showers and thunderstorms will break out in many places on Monday, but central and eastern England will keep some sunshine. On Tuesday, storms will move east while sunshine and scattered showers move into the west.

### AIR QUALITY

Region	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12-15	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Birmingham	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Manchester	10-13	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Newcastle	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Glasgow	10-13	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy
Seaside	11-14	SW 10-15	Partly cloudy

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Any woman approaching or going through the menopause today has the option of taking HRT - the biggest (and most controversial) issue in women's health since the advent of the Pill. Understanding HRT and the Menopause arms you with the essential facts to decide if it's right for you.

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The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux went so far as to say it 'would recommend it unreservedly to all women'. This vital book costs just £9.99 (P&P FREE), so why not order your copy NOW using the order form below? Full refund if not satisfied.

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disease, strokes and prostate disorders. It also looks at self-examination methods to detect early signs of disease, self-help measures for everyday problems such as hair loss, bad breath and body odour, sexual problems, and how to tackle them, as well as preventing stress overload.

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# Theatre pioneer attacks Fringe

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Correspondent

Criticism of the Edinburgh Festival heightened yesterday when one of the city's best-known arts entrepreneurs attacked the state of the Fringe. This followed the anxieties expressed earlier by Professor George Steiner that the Festival had lost its sense of purpose.

Yesterday, Richard Demarco, one of the founders of the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, the country's first fringe theatre, lamented the decline in quality of the city's Fringe Festival and its increasing domination by stand-up comedians.

At a debate on the role of the 50-year-old Edinburgh Festival in the next millennium he said: "In the old days 90 per cent of what was on at the Fringe was of high quality. Now there are hundreds, even thousands, of theatrical events but the fact is that you cannot be sure everything will be good."

"There has also been a terrible increase in the number of stand-up comedies. There are so many it has become an infestation with it impossible to keep out. I've loved comedy all my life, but I want to see more of a balance between comedy and tragedy in the Fringe."

Mr Demarco, who is showing the first British edition of the work of the ex-convict sculptor Jimmy Boyle for 12 years, said there was also a danger that the visual arts would become totally eradicated from the Festival.

Major exhibitions of Velazquez and Giacometti were being given the same status in the Fringe Festival programme as other, more minor shows. "That is ridiculous," he told the audience at the Demarco European Art Foundation.

The organisers must also take more trouble to encourage performers from places such as

Bosnia, Romania and Russia, he said. "So many of the hundreds of millions of people who were cut off from us in the Cold War earn \$40 a month. Unless they are famous, how on earth can they afford to come here? And how are they going to come here if all we can give them is a small space?"

John Calder, the Scottish publisher who was also involved in the founding of the Traverse in the early 1960s in a bid to retain the Festival spirit in Edinburgh all year round, said the Festival was under-promoted.

"It's amazing how little the Festival is known around the world and I think the Scottish Tourist Office does an extremely bad job in publicising it. There's something wrong with Edinburgh in that it's still a secret. People who come here love it but not enough people know about it."

In future, he believed, the Fringe would expand to include more performances of opera and ballet. As subsidies continue to be drastically cut people will have to find ways of raising their own money, often under impossible conditions. The arts in the future are going to be about basic simplicity and they will have to work out how to accomplish this.

But Mr Demarco added that in its previous half-century, the annual Festival had done much to change the Scots' dour tendencies and their "Knoxian Presbyterian prejudice against anything which gave one a smile."

"The Festival has somewhat, little by little, related that. The Scotsman may be full of people writing letters saying 'Why don't they clean up the beaches instead of throwing money away on the Arts', but underneath it all they can now afford to face the fact that life can be about joy."

## Writers' roots: No celebration for centenary of Noddy's creator



Culture clash: Edmund Burke, the 18th-century political writer, upstages Enid Blyton, the popular children's author. Beaconsfield forgot her birthday



## Blyton abandoned by her birthplace

REBECCA FOWLER

There will be no lashings of ginger beer, no buns for tea and no jolly larks in Beaconsfield next summer. While the rest of Britain is preparing to celebrate Enid Blyton's centenary, the local town council in Buckinghamshire has forgotten the birthday of its most famous daughter.

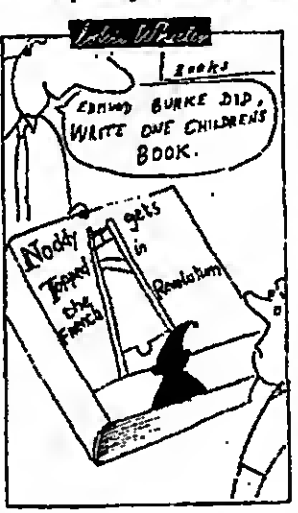
The celebrated children's writer, who was born in August 1897 and lived in Beaconsfield for 30 years, wrote more than 700 children's books in her lifetime. Among the most well known were the Famous Five adventures of Anne, Dick, George, Julian, and Timmy the dog, and the Noddy books.

But Beaconsfield has chosen to honour the bicentenary of the death of an 18th-century political writer instead. Edmund Burke also lived in Beaconsfield, from where he went on to produce some of his own most famous works including *Reflections on the Revolution in France*. Lesley Mallinder, deputy mayor of Beaconsfield, said: "We are not snubbing Enid Blyton, this was not a deliberate attempt to not celebrate the centenary. It was an oversight."

We simply didn't realise it was the centenary next year. People are not terribly au fait with dates of things like that."

She added: "It may not be true of rest of Britain but Edmund Burke is more famous in Beaconsfield. There's only one road named after Enid Blyton, that's Blyton Close, but there are many after Burke. We're not against a celebration, but we couldn't have anything that clashed."

Many of Blyton's books have



attracted the ire of the politically correct in recent years, for their racism and sexism, and some libraries banned them from their shelves, but the council insisted the absence of a celebration was purely an oversight.

Despite the indifference in Beaconsfield, a number of national celebrations have been organised. Trocadero, which bought up Blyton's work for £13m earlier this year, has set up publishing, broadcast and merchandising deals.

The Royal Mail will also launch a set of commemorative stamps, and Noddy, whose adventures have been translated into 30 different languages including Latin, is being given a place on the Internet. The television dramas will include the Famous Five, Amelia Jane and the Secret Seven.

Gillian Baverstock, the author's eldest daughter who is organising the centenary year for Enid Blyton Limited, was critical about the lack of celebrations in Beaconsfield. She said: "I suppose if the town council can only afford to celebrate one author, then Burke is a tremendous political figure. There will be plenty of countrywide celebrations for my mother."



Carefree days: Noddy and Big Ears were not to know that in years to come they'd be considered politically incorrect

## Talking up a £2m storm in the name of art

Artspeople  
with David Lister

When is a deadline not a deadline? When it is in the persuasive vocabulary of Mr Tim Clifford, director of the National Galleries of Scotland.

Mr Clifford has won his campaign to keep Guernica's 17th-century painting, *Erminia Finding the Wounded Tancréd*, from going to the Getty Museum in California. But the dramatic midnight deadline, on Thursday to raise the £2.9m to keep it in Scotland was actually dramatic licence on the part of Mr Clifford. He knew that an anonymous benefactor had pledged to make up the difference if the appeal failed to raise the cash. Mr Clifford just wanted public donations to continue so the outstanding amount would be as low as possible.

I suppose being economical with the truth is permissible in the name of art. If you disagree, ring Mr Tim Clifford ... after midnight.

The success of *Independence Day* as a special-effects science-fiction blockbuster is a little unnerving for its star, Jeff Goldblum. "We thought it was a comedy," says Goldblum. "The script was very funny." The special effects were added later, and amazed the cast as much as the audiences. The actors' bank managers can live with it, though.

Here's one for theatrical trivia quizzers. Who is the only female performer to have won all four of the biggest show business awards - Oscar, Tony, Grammy and Emmy?

The answer is Rita Moreno, the American star who played Anita in the film of *West Side Story*. The 64-year-old actress/singer is taking over the role of Norma Desmond in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard* on the London stage for eight weeks, from 9 September while the present incumbent Petula Clark is on holiday. The holiday relief could prove the most interesting of Sir Andrew's many Normas.

**Marriage**  
Weddings  
down to 4 minutes,  
my bother?

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### NT SHORTS

Michael Portillo, said yesterday would robustly defend their act, after the chairman of the charity confirmed it was in a. The New Labour. Now the Labour leader with fiery eyes, also to the 1992 campaign poster, featured then-Chancellor, Norman

and their families have had in the threats, police revealed last night in the aftermath of the Orange tree, loyalist protests over the ce Boys parade in Londonderry and Derry, Co Antrim.

ad for the symbolic rock of ercigny, the Stone of Soane, will be. The Secretary of State, matter out for public consultation, one brilliant, some bizarre, some dited by the deadline yesterday, dinburgh Castle, St Giles' a Royal Mile is also in the running.

were under pressure last night to call. It was suspended by the non after negotiations with the to over the cost of killing the 30- tress, Elderly Farmers Union and said: "They should stop playing of beef farmers."

in issue of 9 August, Don MacIntyre the MP Richard Brindley had last of being Stalin in the making. While of Mr Blair's leadership style. Mr Blair to Stalin.

### DEPENDENT ABROAD

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# Jubilant Dole rides high on media hype



Pop culture: Bob Dole, pictured with wife Elizabeth, left nothing to chance at this year's convention: no serious gaffes, no juicy rumours and no visible splits. Photograph: AP

## 'I will betray nothing'

Rising in the polls and bolstered by \$62m of new federal funds, Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole headed out yesterday for the campaign trail, promising sweeping tax cuts and a return to vanished old-time values as the cure for America's ills, writes Rupert Cornwell.

In a rousing finale to a hugely successful convention here, Mr Dole placed the issues of trust and honesty at the forefront of his forthcoming election battle with Bill Clinton - "not merely whether the people trust the President", but whether the President and his party trusted the people. "I will betray nothing," Mr Dole told 2,000 cheering, flag-waving delegates.

Hitting what will be a key theme this autumn, Mr Dole contrasted a "Clinton administration elite who never grew up, never did anything real, never sacrificed and never suffered", with his record as a man "tested by adversity, made sensitive by hardship". He presented his 73 years as the key to recapturing a lost golden age.

Yesterday Mr Dole and his running mate, Jack Kemp, held an oceanside departure ceremony before starting a cross-country swing through Colorado, Illinois, New York and Pennsylvania, all states the Democrats won in 1992.

The ticket must now build on the momentum of San Diego. But Republicans are taking heart from a CNN poll before Thursday's acceptance speech, showing a convention "bounce" which has already halved Mr Clinton's lead from 22 per cent to 14 per cent. The money shortage which has plagued Dole is also no more, with the arrival of federal funds for the official Republican nominee.

In his 56-minute speech, he stressed traditional Republican themes, promising lower taxes, a crackdown on crime, hardened foreign and defence policies, and higher personal standards: "Permissiveness and destructive behaviour must be opposed." The Republican party was "broad and inclusive" and resolutely opposed to discrimination. "If you don't agree, the exit signs are clearly marked," he told delegates to loud applause.

## Rupert Cornwell on the Republican Party's triumph of administration over substance

San Diego — Never have so many spent so much time communicating so little of importance. All week, the handsome city of San Diego has been host to 2,000 delegates attending the Republican national convention, a formidable contingent but swamped by 15,000 members of the American and world press. The invasion has brought \$160m (£104m) into the coffers of one of the most affluent municipalities of the US. But for what?

Before Bob Dole's acceptance speech on Thursday evening, this mighty media army had been tossed scarcely a crumb of news: not a single decent row, barely a visible split, not a serious gaffe, not even a juicy rumour to chase; nothing, in short, that had not been programmed in advance.

By day one, the erstwhile rebel Pat Buchanan had made peace with the Dole camp. Podium speeches were timed to the nano-second and purged of the slightest controversy. Bar-

## THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS '96

conservative war-dance that terrified moderate voters and may well have doomed George Bush. Never would such a mistake be made again, the new party chairman Haley Barbour vowed, and made no secret of the fact. But the networks committed a crucial error in disclosing their plans to limit prime-time coverage to one hour per night.

At once the Republican schedulers got to work. Less-than-popular figures such as Newt Gingrich were kept out of prime time, and the most divisive, like Pat Buchanan, kept off the podium completely. The cast was packed with women, minorities and, above all, moderates. A Marian in San Diego this week would have had no idea that the Christian right, accounting for 60 per cent of delegates, but considered dangerously extremist in swathes of the population, even existed.

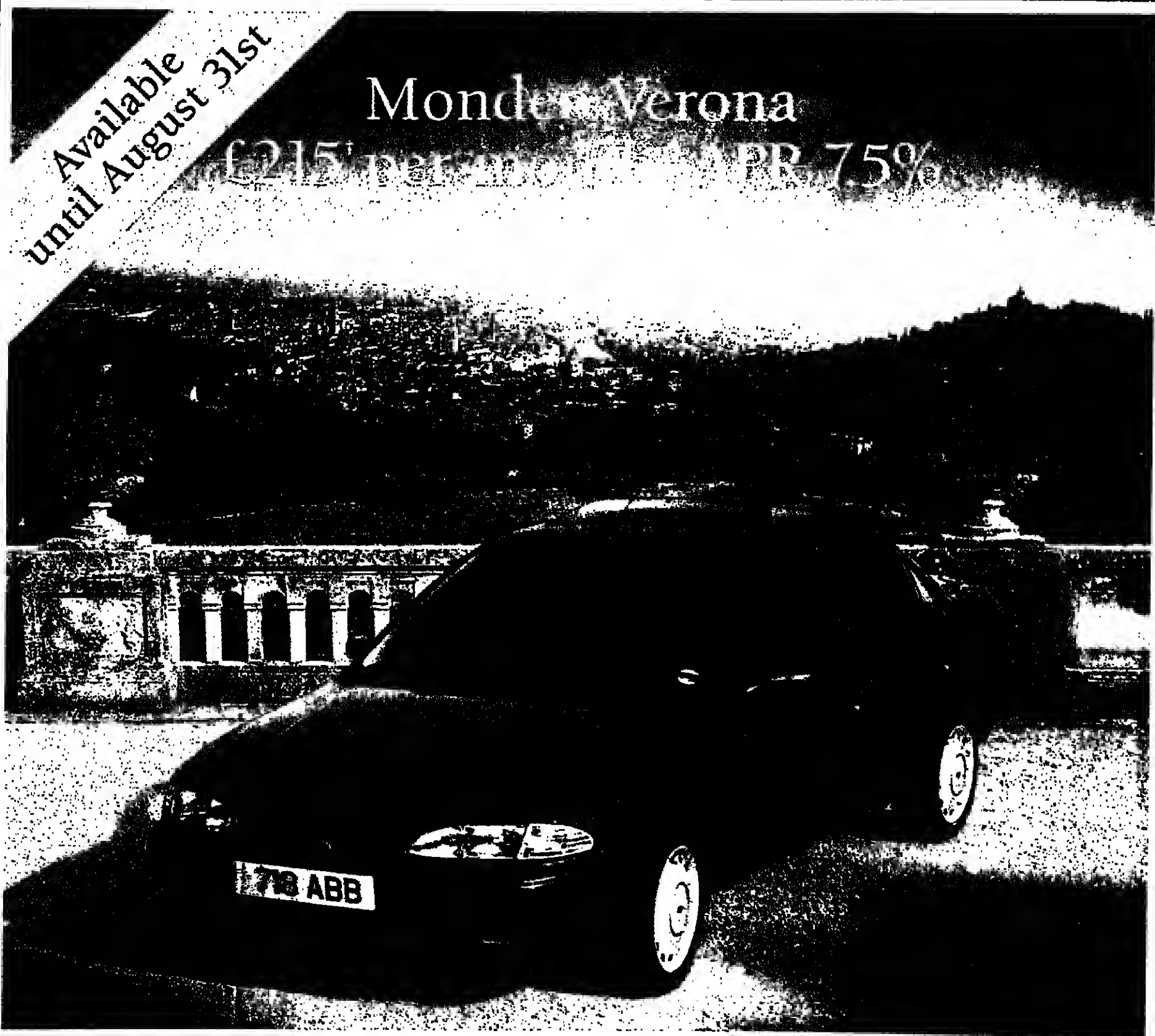
And the Republicans, convinced (with some justification) that the media are biased in favour of the Democrats, made sure nothing would disturb the Marian's peace of mind. That hour of prime time was chopped up into snappy segments, each lasting a few minutes. Gone were the windy introductory speeches, during which a network could roll out pundits to place their jaundiced spin on proceedings. Cleverly, the organisers built in a few "down" minutes for commercial breaks, but the rest was a seamless promotion of the party message. Take it or leave it, the networks were told. For the most part, they have taken it.

In terms of dictating what appeared on American TV screens, therefore, it has been game, set and match to the Republicans. Anchormen whose fame is eclipsed only by the President himself have been reduced to crying foul. One of them, Ted Koppel, host of ABC's admirable *Nightline* programme, stumped out of San Diego saying there was "no news to report".

But the victory may prove Pyrrhic. A political party needs positive coverage — but above all it needs coverage. Good news is no news, and modern conventions may be sweet-talking themselves into network oblivion. ABC's convention viewers on Tuesday were just 4.5 million, compared with the 15 million who tuned into its *Home Improvement* sitcom an hour earlier at 9pm. NBC and CBS did no better, and even Colin Powell on Monday could not prevent a 20 per cent drop in total operating night audience, compared with Houston in 1992.

In truth, 1996 may be the last year in which the major networks bother with the conventions. Conventions are not only a ratings bomb, but in this era of contested primaries and candidates' debates, no longer a vital component of the election process. Nevertheless, full coverage of them is available on CNN and the specialist public affairs channel, C-SPAN, which reach more than two-thirds of American homes. Herein surely lies the future of convention coverage. And perhaps 15,000 media folk will find better employment for their time.

Nation's gun crisis, page 9



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## international

Kremlin struggle: As battle to replace Yeltsin goes public, a separatist commander talks of his determination to fight on

# Lebed blasts rival for fuelling Chechen war

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

The battle ground in the Chechen conflict switched abruptly from the Caucasus to the Kremlin yesterday when Alexander Lebed, Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to the republic, demanded the dismissal of Russia's powerful Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov.

The former general publicly denounced the minister as "one of the main culprits in the war", and implied his ministry was behind attempts to foment conflict in neighbouring republics.

His onslaught, made after he returned from talks in Chechnya with the rebel leadership, prompted a furious showdown in Moscow, where recriminations are flying over Russia's loss of Grozny to separatist forces.

Mr Kulikov accused Mr Lebed of being "engaged in the maniac pursuit of power". The minister, who said he was drafting a resignation letter, was also critical of the Kremlin, citing a "crisis in Russian power".

He said his ministry's thousands of troops in the republic were "catastrophically" underfunded and undermanned. He complained that he had repeatedly appealed in vain for the imposition of a state of emergency in Chechnya.

There was no indication yesterday of Mr Yeltsin's response to the brawl, although it suggests that his grip on his government is weakening. The President's aides say he is working for only two to three hours a day as he struggles to recover from the "colossal weariness" caused by the elections which ended more than six weeks ago.

Mr Lebed's outburst is yet another step in his campaign to consolidate power after being swept into high office in June by Mr Yeltsin. After he won 10 million votes, the President appointed him secretary of the Security Council. He has since placed him in charge of settling the Chechen crisis.

Within two months, Mr Lebed has secured the scalp of his arch-enemy, the former

Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev. He has led a purge in the senior ranks of the army, ousting a handful of generals. He has played a major role in the removal of Mr Yeltsin's hardline confidant, Alexander Korzhakov, and the dismissal of the head of the KGB-style Federal Security Service, Mikhail Barsukov. He has also persuaded President Yeltsin to greatly increase the power of the Security Council.

Mr Lebed accused Mr Kulikov of having "a Napoleon complex". He alleged he had caught agents of the Interior ministry spying on him. He announced that Mr Yeltsin had a choice to make: "only one of us can stay - Lebed or Kulikov."

However, he later said this was not a threat to resign. His remarks seem likely to deepen his conflict with Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, with whom he is engaged in an open battle over who will eventually replace Mr Yeltsin.

On Thursday, Mr Chernomyrdin unveiled his new cabinet in which Mr Kulikov remained at his post, despite the Chechen débâcle. Nor is the Prime Minister likely to have welcomed other blunt remarks by his rival, including a warning that Russia was "on the verge of a social explosion".

Although Mr Lebed is creating enemies in the Kremlin, his approach appears to be winning friends in Chechnya, where the Russian Interior Ministry is loathed. The Chechen leader, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, has spoken warmly of Mr Lebed's efforts to create peace, saying he "deserved strong praise".

The separatists whom Mr Lebed met on Thursday yesterday underscored their approval by releasing 17 Russian hostages. Meanwhile, Russian and Chechen commanders met to negotiate an order suspending combat operations. But these moves towards peace face many hurdles. This includes opposition from the Russian military, who still cling to the belief that they can win outright.



Last hope: A Chechen fighter checks the papers of a woman trying to flee Grozny

Photograph: Robert King/AP

## Rebel lord of Grozny revels in his triumph

CARLOTTA GALL  
Grozny

The master of Grozny, Shamil Basayev, was sitting in a spartan room in a cellar in the city centre, nursing a wounded foot.

Though in pain, he seemed at ease and very much in control. Notorious for his raid on Budyonovsk last year, when his band of fighters seized more than 1,000 hostages in the town hospital, Mr Basayev, 31, has established himself as one of the most accomplished guerrilla leaders in the world.

Ten days ago he led 1,500 men in an audacious three-pronged attack on the garrison town of Grozny, reaching the centre within half an hour.

Since then the Chechen rebels have surrounded thousands of Russian troops in their command posts all over the city.

"[The Russians] can take the city back. It would take half a year and they would have to destroy the town. They can take it even in a month, but it would cost them 10,000 to 15,000 men," he said.

Mr Basayev, who commanded the defence of Grozny in the

last battle, is a hero in Chechnya and commands the unwavering loyalty of his fighters. He sat calmly in his cellar, just off the central market, dressed in a blue-and-white-striped Russian army T-shirt, his head shaved bald, showing a deep scar on his forehead from a motorcycle accident when he was a boy. Flies landed on his foot. Blood was still seeping through a bandage. A matching gun bullet broke a bone and struck a vein when he was hit two days ago, he said.

"For me it is minor, a trifle," he said. He could run if it was essential. Meanwhile he was on crutches, he said, pointing to a pair in the corner.

Russian forces launched another attempt to break through to the city's stadium from the east on Wednesday, he said, but his fighters had held them off.

Russian infantry unsuccessfully launched another push on Thursday morning. Mr Basayev's deputy for the operation in Grozny, Aslanbek Ismailov, who also was his second-in-command at Budyonovsk, was in charge of the latest fighting.

He said he was not interested in attacking the small Russian posts dotted around the town and on the main bridges. The Chechen side had even prepared leaflets to hand out to the Russians, suggesting they surrender. Fighters would run up to deliver them after shouting to them to hold fire, he said. The Russian soldiers did not want to fight, Mr Basayev said, and were reluctant to leave their bases to storm the town again. Mr Basayev said the rebels' patience had run out after Moscow went back on its word to end the war peacefully when it launched bombing raids in the mountains in July.

Asked if his humiliation of Russia would bring better results than peace talks, he said: "Do you not think Russia humiliated us for 300 years? It cannot even feed its own people, that is its humiliation. It should then spend money on this war. Soldiers were eating dogs from the streets here in January." "The mortars are landing on our land, killing our people, and ruining our mountains and villages," he said.

Despite obvious tiredness and faintly shaking hands, Mr Basayev brightened when he described his fighters' success. They had captured several tanks and armoured personnel carriers, positioning them on the edge of the market to use against attacking helicopters and planes. The Russians now feared to fly close, he said. He claimed he had personally shot down two planes with a machine gun in the battle for the town. He had lost only 35 men, with 80 wounded, few of them seriously. His estimates of Russian casualties ranged from 2,000 to 3,000, with over 200 armoured vehicles destroyed.

He was sceptical about Alexander Lebed's efforts to end the conflict. "I do not believe a single Russian man. The Russians are not people who keep their word," he said. "But there is a hope that we can do something to resolve our fate."



"Do you not think Russia has humiliated us for 300 years?" - Shamil Basayev

The first three months of the 20-month-old war, has presented Moscow with a big challenge. "The aim [of the operation] was to take the town and fight the Russian forces at close quarters," he said.

His fighters undoubtedly control most of Grozny, driving around in captured government Volga cars and police jeeps. Every district has its own headquarters with a top commander in charge.

Every approach to the Russian positions is manned by fighters, recognisable by their camouflage uniforms and berets with green Islamic headbands. The green flag of the independent Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, with its distinctive white-red-white bands, is sewn on their uniforms or berets.

They were polite, especially to a journalist from Britain, which retains a good reputation in Chechnya from pre-revolutionary times. Any suspicion they showed was instantly dispelled by a pass bearing Mr Basayev's personal red stamp, with its emblem of the lone wolf.

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# Bloody 24 hours in a country ruled by guns

TIM CORNWELL  
Los Angeles

The need for controls on firearms becomes more pressing in the US

Frederick Davidson was scheduled to defend his master's thesis on Thursday before a panel of academics at the local State University. Instead, he produced a handgun and shot them to death, firing more than 20 rounds. Mr Davidson, 36, an army veteran, surrendered to campus police and was taken sobbing in handcuffs to a police car.

The shooting took place 10 miles from the site of the Republican convention, at San Diego University. In the wake of the shooting, which took place hours before Robert Dole's signature speech, gun control activists maintained yesterday that he and other Republicans have merely papered over their close ties to the National Rifle Association. It was a bloody 24 hours in a country where death from shooting is a common occurrence. On the same day as the shooting, Texas police reported that Ernest Conery, 70, terminally ill with cancer, fatally shot his cousin, wounded his stepdaughter and then killed himself. He had grabbed the handgun from his bedroom after becoming enraged by Mr Dole's nomination.

Gun control has become an issue in Britain after the murder of 16 children and a teacher in Dunblane, and the report from the Home Affairs Select Committee earlier this week. But the problem in America is on an epidemic scale. More and more Americans now have access to guns in their homes, offices, and the glove compartments of their cars. Estimates

for the number of handguns in circulation in the US run as high as 222 million, or about one for every man, woman and child in the nation. Firearms deaths run at an annual rate of about 40,000. Mr Davidson used a heavy .9mm handgun, frequently the weapon of choice for America's criminals, and, increasingly, its police forces. Gun rights groups in California have campaigned for it to join the growing number of states which now freely issue licenses for people to carry concealed weapons.

Mr Dole, in his speech accepting the Republican Party's nomination, mentioned a promised "national instant check" system for sales of handguns, whereby buyers would have their criminal records checked by computer at the point of sale. But Handgun Control Inc, a public interest group, claimed yesterday that Mr Dole's proposal is simply a manoeuvre to placate the gun lobby.

Only a fifth of criminal history records are currently computer-accessible. Instead, the "instant check" would mainly serve to remove the five-day waiting period currently required for handgun purchases, which is enshrined in the "Brady law", said Terry Chesmar of the gun control pressure group. The law was passed in 1993 after a long and bitter campaign by the National Rifle Association to block it, and Mr Dole voted against it.

The gun lobby remained largely out of sight at a con-

vention which was intended to stress the Republicans' moderate and inclusive appeal. But Handgun Control Inc activists staged a demonstration outside a \$1,000-a-ticket party given by the actor Charlton Heston. The party, at San Diego's Planet Hollywood restaurant, was to launch Mr Heston's new political action committee aimed at channelling campaign funds to suitable Republican candidates. Mr Heston has appeared in widely-televised commercials for the NRA, though he is said to want to broaden his image.



Life's a gas: Two exhausted South Korean policemen take a break on the campus at Yonsei University in Seoul, where thousands of riot police have spent three days trying, and so far failing, to arrest some 3,600 students for holding an outlawed reunification rally

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## Greek PM stays away from Cyprus funeral

Athens (Reuters) — The Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis cancelled plans to attend the funeral yesterday of a Greek Cypriot demonstrator in an apparent effort to defuse tensions on the divided island. The decision came as the Cypriot government in Nicosia appealed to people for restraint hours before the funeral rites took place for the Greek Cypriot man shot dead during an anti-Turkish demonstration.

Mr Karamanlis will fly to the island today to boost morale and to join a Cypriot national council meeting, called to tackle a crisis that erupted after one Greek Cypriot youth was beaten to death on Sunday and the second was shot dead on Wednesday in clashes between Turkish forces and civilians after Greek Cypriot demonstrators entered the buffer zone dividing the island. United Nations peace-keepers were also injured.

"We thought it was more constructive to attend the national council meeting than the funeral," a senior government adviser said. But Greek media widely reported that Mr Karamanlis decided to skip the funeral following talks with the Cypriot government, which agreed his presence might exacerbate the ill feeling on the island.

The revised approach was also evident in comments by Mr Karamanlis to the press during an armed forces reception on Thursday.

"We need calmness because if we lose our temper we only serve our opponents. We have gained great ground with the international community since the start of the year and this is the course we must follow," Mr Karamanlis said.

"Strong armed forces are a guarantee for our policy of peace, friendship and co-operation in the area," he added. Mr Karamanlis arranged to chair a special cabinet meeting yesterday to review the situation and today he will decide a common line of action at the national council of Cyprus, with Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and the heads of the opposition parties.

Cyprus has been a major issue of contention between Greece and Turkey, both members of Nato, since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied the north of the island following a coup in Nicosia by the military junta then ruling Greece. Greece has vetoed millions of dollars of European Union funding to Turkey and has tried to emphasise Ankara's human rights record to block it from getting closer to the EU.

The two neighbours also bicker over territorial rights. Their navies almost clashed in January, over an uninhabited rock in the eastern Aegean, on the day Mr Karamanlis took office. His handling of the crisis was widely criticised in Greece as too meek; he agreed to take down the Greek flag from the island and accepted a compromise brokered by the United States.



Led away: Frederick Davidson shown on TV after his arrest

ation to fight on

el lord of  
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triumph

Mr. Heston is a hero; Chechnya and command it unwavering loyalty of his fighters. He sat calmly in his just off the central market dressed in a blue-and-white striped Russian army shirt, head shaved, bald, strong, deep-set eyes, and a thick beard. He was still sitting there when a bullet struck him in the chest. He was still sitting there when a bullet struck him in the chest. He was still sitting there when a bullet struck him in the chest.

Shamil, a separatist leader, was seen in a crowd of supporters. He was seen in a crowd of supporters. He was seen in a crowd of supporters. He was seen in a crowd of supporters. He was seen in a crowd of supporters.

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## international



Suharto: Warned of risks

## Suharto endorses 'red scare' and rules out political reform

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Thirty years after anti-Communist pogroms left half a million of his countrymen dead, President Suharto of Indonesia yesterday warned that the country is still at risk from left-wing insurgents, and rejected any possibility of reform after violent pro-democracy demonstrations in Jakarta last month.

Mr Suharto was giving his "state of the nation" speech, an

annual address marking the 51st anniversary of Indonesia's independence, which is celebrated today in parades and ceremonies across the country. Despite three decades of unchallenged rule, the president has never been noted for his powers as an orator. Apart from endorsing the "red scare" started by his generals three weeks ago, yesterday's speech was significant mainly for the subjects it failed to address: the

corruption, political uncertainty and economic inequity which, many Indonesians believe, lie at the root of the present unrest. Above all, he failed to mention his own plans for the next few years. 75-years-old and dogged by rumours of ill health, he is in the second half of his sixth unopposed term. Presidential elections will be held in 1998, and Mr Suharto has given no firm indication so far of whether or not he will stand.

The uncertainty about his intentions, and the lack of any obvious and credible successor, appear to be at the heart of simmering tensions which boiled over on 27 July in riots that left at least four people dead and a dozen buildings gutted. They were triggered by police raids on the headquarters of the Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI), and the arrest of followers of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the PDI's popular leader

who is campaigning for a reform of Indonesia's highly constrained political system. Within days of the riots, officers in the powerful Indonesian armed forces (Abri) were blaming them on the People's Democratic Party (PRD), a small left-wing organisation, which they likened to the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI). The PKI was persecuted into oblivion after an alleged coup attempt in 1966 in the

aftermath of which Mr Suharto came to power. In the last fortnight, the police and Abri have arrested dozens of PRD members on suspicion of the capital crime of subversion. "The imposition of one's will and changes by force, the destruction and burning of buildings and public facilities are acts of anarchy, undemocratic and irresponsible," Mr Suharto said yesterday. "These riots had nothing to do with democracy."

Their perpetrators and participants will be held accountable for their actions before the law... We are determined never to allow the recurrence of a PKI rebellion in our homeland. "If we are not yet satisfied with the role played by the three forums of our political forces, let us improve the existing forums," he said. "And not by establishing a new forum where the support of people is still entirely unclear."

A dozen steam locomotives kept Tuzla from freezing to death through Bosnia's brutal winters of conflict, reports Emma Daly

# Warhorses that saved besieged city's life

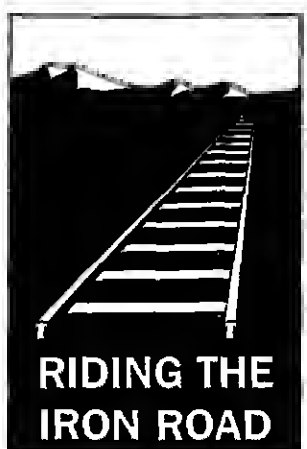
The roar of the furnace, the wind in your hair, the charm of a gentle chug - it is the first inkling of the joy that steam trains inspire in the enthusiastic amateur. And these particular engines are life-savers, old-fashioned old faithfuls that kept a city going through siege and snow and misery.

But we are in the Balkans, where nothing is as you expect, so of course the drivers who spend their days in the oily cabs once used by Hitler's army are longing for the modern convenience of diesel locomotives.

"I've driven these engines for 20 years and it's very hard and dirty work," said Ibrahim Klincevic, chief driver at the dilapidated and weed-infested railway sidings of the Kreka coal mine in Tuzla, northern Bosnia.

"Can we have a diesel engine as a present?" Mato Markovic asked hopefully. "It could be small, it doesn't need to be big," Mr Klincevic added.

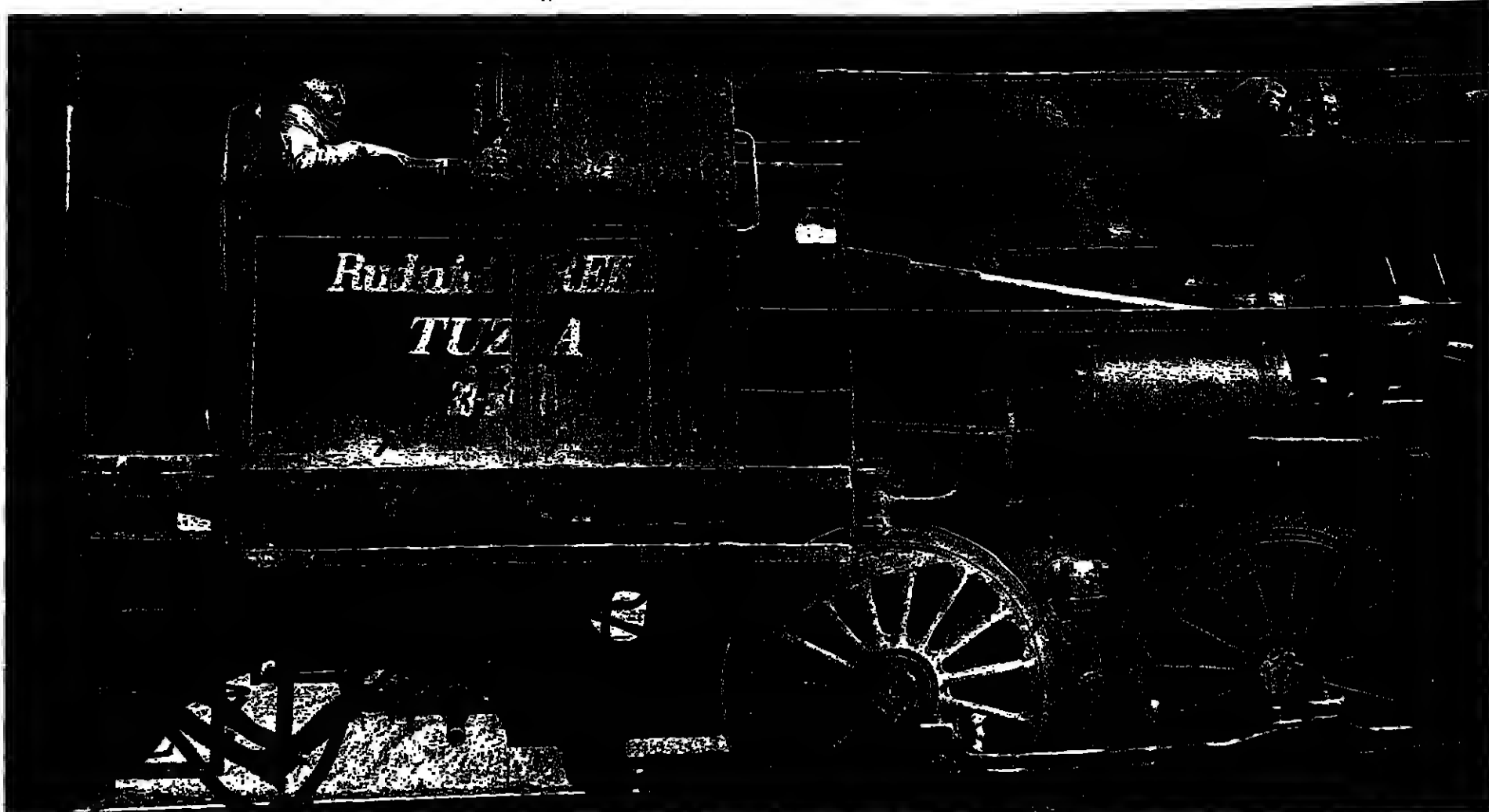
Trains have played a bizarre role in the Bosnian war: there has been more than one attempt to turn a train into a lethal weapon, packed with explosives and rolled towards an



RIDING THE IRON ROAD

enemy town. A couple of branch lines were kept open by miraculous means, and one train was towed by a lorry, but most of the network was unusable, littered with mines, bridges blown.

But Tuzla was lucky, and the men do not underplay the work done by the steam trains. The city, its population swollen by 250,000 refugees, was under siege and in despair for much of the war, short of food, water and fuel. Without the locomotives



Old faithful: Ahmet Divkovic driving one of the Forties series 33 locomotives maintained by a determined workforce and the help of the ODA

Photograph: Jim Cochran

hauling coal from the mines to the city's huge, hideous power station, to generate electricity for almost a million people, Tuzla would have frozen to death and its factories and hospitals would have shut down.

"These steam trains should be given medals," Mustafa Saracovic, resident steam buff at the Kreka mine, said. "How

could we have lived without electricity throughout the war?" As the war progressed, the elderly engines started to stumble for want of vital spare parts, and Mr Saracovic issued an emergency appeal to the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) on the grounds that the British love steam trains and might help. Mike Bristow at the

ODA came to the rescue, with £22,000 worth of grease, oil and white metal, and got the trains back on track. "That was the only method of getting coal from the mines to the power station," Mr Bristow said.

Tuzla was not heavily shelled for most of the war, but it was virtually cut off, particularly during 1993, when the Muslim-Croat war in central Bosnia was at its peak.

The populace was entirely dependent on humanitarian aid, but the food lorries were forced to run a dangerous gauntlet of big guns along a route known to foreigners as "bomb alley", and supplies were erratic. "The convoys would be coming tomorrow and then just not appear," Mr Bristow said.

In the brutal Bosnian winter

heating is vital, and those who could not afford to buy wood were dependent on the centralised heating system that ran water warmed by the power station through the city's grim apartment blocks.

The steam engines also car-

ried consumer goods shipped to the front-line villages to be bartered for potatoes and other basics.

Eight of the locomotives are German series 33 engines built by Krupp in the early Forties and used by Hitler on the East-

ern Front during the Second World War. The other four are series 62, based on a French design and built in the Fifties in Slavonki Brod, a Yugoslav town that now stands on Croatia's border with Bosnia-Herzegovina. And despite the drivers' complaints, the beasts will be around for a while - the men are

repainting the engines red and green, with red and white wheels and a golden lily, the symbol of Bosnia. "I loved steam engines when I was a kid, but it's a great feeling when you drive a new engine," Mr Klincevic said wistfully as the engine bumped and ground to a halt with a hiss of steam. "It's like a new car - you know, Mercedes versus Trabant."

Mr Saracovic refused an offer for the trains from an Austrian museum before the war, and may do so again. "Now that the war is over we are probably going to have to substitute diesels for them soon," he said.

"We will preserve these and wait for the next war. That is the law here. We have them quite often."

'These trains deserve medals ... it was the only way of getting coal'

KATE WAS DELIGHTED...

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## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Strikes gripped key Australian industries yesterday, erupting into violence at one picket line, in the face of planned changes to the labour market. An oil refinery, car plant and bottle-making factory in Victoria have been shut or severely disrupted by growing wage disputes. Strikers outside a Melbourne bottle-making plant withstood an attempt by baton-wielding police to breach a picket line. Industrial tension has been building since Australia's main conservative political parties won election in March, pledging to free up the labour market and weaken union influence. *Reuter - Melbourne*

Belgian police have rescued two kidnapped girls aged 12 and 14, in the first successful conclusion to a series of child disappearances which have been linked to paedophiles. Two men and a woman were arrested. *La Dernière Heure newspaper said 14 girls and one boy had disappeared in the past six years. Reuter - Brussels*

Two more white men were indicted with conspiring to burn a black church, a day after two white men pleaded guilty to a similar charge. The men, both former members of the Ku Klux Klan, were accused of conspiring to burn a church in Bloomville in June 1995. *AP - Charleston*

Child prostitution in Estonia has become a serious problem and needs to be tackled, a Social Affairs Ministry spokesman, Jaan Ruutman, said. He said about 1,000 children were engaged in prostitution. *AP - Tallinn*

The defence of "homosexual panic" in murder trials is to be reviewed in New South Wales. The Australian state ordered the legal review of the Homosexual Advance Defence, which argues that homosexual advances are a provocation for murder, because of its growing usage. The defence had been used in 13 criminal trials in the state since 1993. *Reuter - Sydney*

With charges of torture in Palestinian jails growing, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has agreed to give the Red Cross access to his prisons. Amnesty International called for the immediate release of two Palestinian police officers who have not been heard from since their arrests in May and July. *AP - Beirut*

Riots flared in the Jordanian city of Karak as scores of demonstrators protested at an increase in bread prices. *Amman*

The rickshaw has fallen victim to traffic and will be barred from Calcutta's clogged streets. Hand-pulled rickshaws and carts are to be banned from the city at the end of the year. *Reuter - Calcutta*

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## the saturday story

Business executives and city speculators are nervously awaiting a Labour government, writes Michael Harrison

## Who's afraid of Tony Blair?

It is lunchtime in Belgravia, and the chief executive of a large privatised utility is holding court in one of the capital's more exclusive eateries. He is contemplating what life would be like under a Labour government. More specifically, he is contemplating the damage that Gordon Brown's windfall tax would do.

As the asparagus and wild mushrooms slip down, an idea begins to form. Labour's windfall tax would rob £5bn from the privatised gas, electricity, water, telecoms and transport companies. What, then, would they have to lose by clubbing together and donating just 1 per cent of that amount to help get John Major re-elected?

Sadly, by the time the chef's special fishcakes arrive, the idea has already been consigned to the dustbin. It will, the executive reflects gloomily, take a lot more than £50m to save Mr Major's bacon. In any case, just think of the political fall-out and, worse still, the screaming tabloid headlines: "Fat cat water bosses bale out Tories". If Mr Brown had any lingering doubts about squeezing the utilities until the pips squeak, that would surely extinguish them.

The mere fact that serious industrialists can spend time debating such ideas says something about what little else the business community knows of new Labour and what exactly is in Tony Blair's mind. Other than the commitment to a windfall tax, a national minimum wage and the European Union's Social Chapter, there is still little meat on the bone of Labour's policies for business.

Tony Blair says there will be no return to penal rates of taxation, but we do not know what the top rate of tax will be or at what point it will bite. He and the Shadow Chancellor have promised that there will be no short-term dash for growth or public spending binge. The foundation of Labour's economic policy will be "save and invest, not tax and spend".

But no one in business knows whether the Blairites will be able to hold the line if, say, Labour gets in with a landslide. How will it respond to all those expenditure demands from special-interest groups that have been denied a voice in Downing Street for the last 17 years?

Mr Blair says that Labour will reform the Bank of England to "insulate it from political manipulation". But does that really mean he will give the Bank, the very embodiment of the City establishment and City values, a genuinely free hand to set monetary policy?

New Labour promises that there will be no return to old-fashioned centralised state planning or the habit of picking industrial winners. Instead it will harness the resource of the capital markets in a genuine partnership between public and private funding.

On Wednesday 4 September, several hundred chief executives and senior directors will pay £470 a head to go along to the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre to listen to Labour's front bench packaging all this together and presenting it in the shape of a prospectus for business. This will contain five policy pledges: low inflation and a fair tax system; a central role for Britain in Europe that is outward looking and anti-protectionist; a new drive to improve educational standards and skills;

**The financial markets have already largely factored in a Blair victory, so far ahead is he in the polls**

promotion and support for small businesses; and a new partnership between industry and government to rebuild Britain's infrastructure. There will be regional development agencies for England and more support for exporters, a new Office for Competition and Consumer Standards to oversee takeovers, new rules to curb boardroom pay and probably a new commission to police the City.

Absolutely ooze of this is costed. And yet the conventional wisdom is that new Labour holds few fears for business, while the financial markets have already largely factored in a Blair victory, so far ahead is he in the polls.

Take this assessment from Adam Turner, the director general of the Confederation of British Industry: "It is impossible to say that the removal of Clause IV from Labour's constitution hasn't caused a fundamental shift. There is a great deal more convergence between the two main parties than we have seen in the past. There are many things in Labour's Road to the Manifesto with which we agree in general terms, there are some issues on which we are seeking clarification, such as tax rates, and there are areas, such as the minimum wage and social chapter, with which we disagree. A lot of businesses are working on a Labour

government being a significant possibility but not a certainty."

This sanguine view of Labour is partly explained by the fact that until an election is called, no one really has to confront the possibility. Why decide until you have to? But it also owes much to Mr Blair's soothing words. There is, in fact, nothing new in the list of pledges that he will set out on 4 September. It is exactly the same combination of apple pie and motherhood that he laid before the British Chambers of Commerce national conference in Birmingham six weeks ago.

But it seems to work. Mr Blair went down considerably better in the heartland of British manufacturing than the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang. It was not quite a Labour love-in, but journalists had to scour the corridors of Birmingham's new convention centre long and hard to find a dissenting voice. At the end of the conference, delegates voted in a ratio of 20 to 1 that Mr Blair would be the next prime minister.

This response from Bob Moore, chief executive of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and a former area director for Lloyds Bank, rather summed up the mood: "What we are seeing from Labour is a pragmatic approach to industry. There is an increasing sense that business would be comfortable with either party."

John Townsend, who chairs the East Midlands association of chambers, said: "Blair is convincing quite a body of the business community that Labour is now a party with which it can work. There is nowhere near the apprehension that there was five years ago."

It is not a view which is universally held. In last Wednesday's *Daily Mail*, Sir Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixon's, launched a ferocious broadside against the policies that lay beneath the Labour leader's "placidious waffle". He wrote: "Behind the half-baked nostrums of new Labour there lurks a programme which threatens our national prosperity just as seriously as the old-fashioned state socialism of the Seventies."

With its adherence to a national minimum wage, its ill-defined theory of stakeholding and its blithe support for the Social Chapter, Labour was exposed as the party that would destroy Britain's competitive edge, he went on. "The main problem is that Labour still seems to have a basic mistrust of entrepreneurs and wealth creators. It accuses companies of failing to invest, failing to train their workers, failing to have long-term outlook.



But it's not a picture I recognise. It is a grotesque distortion, a self-hate image."

In truth, it was as much a rant against Brussels as against Mr Blair. Labour counter-attacked with immediate effect, highlighting not only Dixon's large contributions to Tory party funds but also the way Sir Stanley had awarded himself a 29 per cent pay rise last year in defiance of the Greenbury rules on boardroom remuneration.

Gerald Frankel, a former senior official at the National Economic Development Office who now runs Labour's Industry Forum, dismisses Sir Stanley's claims as "uninformed, absurd and very stupid". The forum has more than 200 members, including Tesco, British Gas and Glaxo Wellcome. "I can tell you that the chairman of Hambros Bank, NatWest and 3i, who are all subscribers, would feel his views are rubbish, and they are not supporters of the Labour Party."

Few businessmen and still fewer leading City figures are prepared to stick their heads above the parapet

in quite the way Sir Stanley has. There is little doubt, however, that he was articulating the private opinions of a sizeable minority.

There is an undertow of anxiety and hostility, arising not so much out of what is in Labour's manifesto, but what is left unstated. "What it really hinges on is the size of majority" is a comment often heard in business circles when discussion turns to the next election. "Anything above 80 seats and Blair will have real difficulty sticking to his pledges on public spending," says one senior businessman. "In that case, all the promises about prudent management of the economy will be out the window."

It is not, interestingly enough, a view subscribed to by some of the big investment banks in the City, who live and die by forecasting the movement of currencies, interest rates, government bonds and equities.

Martin Brooks, a UK economist with the giant US bank Goldman Sachs, says that, if anything, the greatest risk to economic stability lies not in a Labour election victory

but in the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, fuelling an unsustainable consumer boom through tax and interest rate cuts between now and polling day.

A Labour win, he says, would have little fundamental impact on either gilts (securities issued by the government to fund its spending programmes) or sterling, because macro-economic policy will not be that distinguishable. If that is correct, then Britain may be about to witness a sea change in the way business looks at politics, moving towards an American model in which large corporations are as likely to support the Democrats as the Republicans. In this scenario Tony Blair becomes Bill Clinton. The political dividing line ceases to be management of the economy, and becomes social policy.

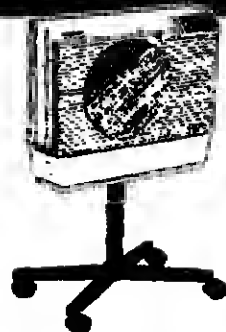
The outlook for shares is less rosy. Goldman Sachs is forecasting that the FTSE-100 Index will be about 400 points lower this time next year, wiping some £57bn from the value of Britain's leading companies. Here, Labour is mainly to blame.

Apart from the windfall tax it plans to impose on the water, electricity, gas, transport and telecoms companies, a Labour victory would probably spell the end of the takeover boom and usher in higher corporate taxes.

If Sir Stanley Kalms is right, then there are cogent reasons for corporate Britain to fear a change of government. But when senior businessmen start sounding off about Labour, the suspicion inevitably stirs that what they are really concerned about is not the economy, nor particular industries, nor even individual firms, but the impact on their own pockets.

Imposing, say, a 60 per cent rate of tax on those earning more than £100,000 would bring in £1bn a year. Unlike John Smith's shadow budget in 1992, which helped cost Labour the election, the victims would be too few for the Conservatives to be able to persuade the electorate that it was a tax on self-improvement. Perhaps that slush fund to help re-elect Mr Major isn't such a bad idea after all.

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## Jo Brand's week



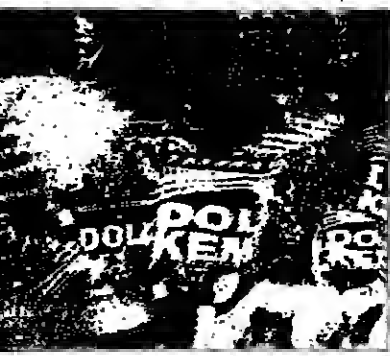
A glance across the Atlantic at the Republican convention gives us some idea, I fear, of how our own political life will be conducted in the not-too-distant future. Party hats, things you blow and harmonica performances, I am sure, point the way to the McDonaldising of political campaigns on the shores of Blighty. Each speaker seems to be obliged to mention "the American Dream" at least once, to slap off Bill Clinton and to reiterate constantly to "the hard-working American" which immediately precludes those millions living the American nightmare.

"The Dole Express is pulling out of the station!" proclaimed one speaker with evangelical zeal, conjuring up an image of the prospective candidate collecting all the unemployed and driving them further towards the scrap heap. Underlying all this Republican bluster is the same old Victorian message about paying respect only to "the deserving poor" who keep their mouths shut, work their balls off for a pittance and get trodden on, but maintain their dignity. As for the ones who shout about their unfair lot, the heavily "Christian" Republicans at this convention ignore them.

Thankfully old Dole is 20 points behind in the polls, so it doesn't look like this mob will get the chance to put their own special kind of Christianity into operation. The farcical shebang was summed up by the playing of the *Merry Poppins* theme. "And now for something completely different" ... I don't think so.

If I'm having a bad day, a dose of PMT or am just plain tired and irritable, I may be a bit short tempered. Faced with a big pile of mail as I sometimes am, I might have a moan, particularly if I have received another batch of "you're not much of a cop", letters. However, it is a very long way from my sour mood to the page, and I have always managed to stop myself whingeing in a letter to someone who has bothered to write to me. Thus, I find it amazing that Angela Rumbold got that far and aimed her bile at a pensioner. One can only draw the conclusion that she is a bitter, selfish and irritable person who is sick of her constituents. Perhaps she'll get promotion.

One of the unforeseen problems thrown up by the resumption of



Dole crew: Republicans show how to party

hostilities in Northern Ireland is the nightmare it has caused in Hollywood, where the moguls have indulged recently in a frenzy of film making about the IRA.

This includes *Devil's Own* with Brad Pitt, and another film about the life of Michael Collins. Hollywood says it's worried about the effect these films will have on us all over here, should the Troubles continue.

Balls. Hollywood is worried about money. I suppose we should be grateful for a postscript. Hollywood's previous attempts at anything to do with any part of Ireland tend to consist of appalling accents, people bursting into song in pubs for no apparent reason, and embarrassing scripts. In fact, Hollywood ... don't bother at all.

Wouldn't it be a joy if, just once, a member of the Royal Family went out on a limb and shocked us all with a useful emotional outburst, as opposed to the carefully worded, tactful and bland old crap they are normally forced to spout. A statement on the unacceptability of racism with some real oomph behind it is just the thing we could do with at the moment from Prince Charles. (Given his recent visit to Britain with Nelson Mandela, one assumes he is an anti-racist.)

Prince Charles is honorary Colonel-in-Chief of the Cheshire regiment, some members of which are accused of racially abusing a black woman who was trying to defend a young black recruit, who, himself was suffering similar abuse. This woman was allegedly called "nigger" and had guns thrust at her. The trial of these men has been postponed because one of the defendants has a slipped disc, the poor lamb. If the men are convicted I think Charles should get stuck in and sort it out. Not a good idea to take any advice from his dad, though, I wouldn't have thought.

I noticed this weekend that one of the tabloids was glorying in having found another race of people to have a pop at. It seems the Russians are starting to replace the Germans as rude-foreigners-on-holiday. It has even got to the point that Germans and English are having to team up to fight the red menace as they tick the

best sun-beds. Funny, I always thought the Reds went under the beds.

Poor old Glenda Jackson. I bet she had to grit her teeth like they've never been gritted before when she was offered the joyous task of tramping the beach in Benidorm to promote the Labour Party. I really can't think of anything worse than trying to persuade the Brits on their hols in Croydon-by-the-Sea to vote for Tone.

It seems it was a bit of an uphill struggle as she lighted upon tattooed lobster after tattooed lobster who professed an undying love for Lady Thatcher. I went to Benidorm once for about half an hour. Union Jacks hung from numerous balconies and drunk people staggered along the front suffering either sunstroke or alcohol poisoning and combining the two in that glorious Brit near-death abroad half-vomiting, half-leeching demeanour. Into all this is plunked the cool and committed Glenda ... it must have been hell. Apparently she also gave up after half an hour. New Labour, new danger? In Glenda's case, a strangely apposite slogan.



Benidorm queen: Glenda in hell

سكنا من الاجل



# the commentators

## What is an airport for?

It's for a quick and simple check-in and take-off... not an appalling orgy of consumerism, argues Terence Conran

Airports, I believe, should be civilised gateways from one country (or city) to another. More than that, they should be in some way representative of the character of that country. Napoleon belittled us as 'ignation of shopkeepers', but is that really the impression we wish to perpetuate? The British Airports Authority, it seems, would think so. And nobody – certainly not the Government, and certainly not the planners – is responding to the huge and vulgar change in emphasis that has overtaken Heathrow and Gatwick Airports, whereby they are now principally concerned in the business of retail.

Around the world, but especially in the UK, retailing has overwhelmed the main purpose of air terminals: to ensure that passengers enjoy a swift, safe, calm and easy transition through check-in procedures and passport control to board an aeroplane. While John Gummer has announced his intention that the Department of the Environment should strengthen its commitment to town centres and curb out-of-town supermarkets, my understanding is that once planning permission for an airport terminal is granted, the BAA is free to use and develop that site as it chooses. If you or I wanted to convert an empty school into a shopping centre, the first step would be to seek permission for the proposed change of use; the BAA, by contrast, has converted Heathrow and Gatwick Airports into huge out-of-town shopping centres, and they are set to become bigger still.

The figures, apparently, speak for themselves: airport shopping is big, booming business. According to the BAA, gross retail income for 1995/96 rose by 10.5 per cent on the previous year to £566m, accounting for 44 per cent of total BAA revenue, the largest single source. And although duty-free sales were dominated by liquor, tobacco and perfume, it is clothing, electrical equipment and jewellery that are the fastest growth areas in terms of sales.

With this in mind, the BAA is embarked on an ambitious expansion plan, concentrated mainly on Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. In part this is in response to the rising number of airline passengers, but there can be no doubt about how the BAA views its captive population. The recently completed expansion of the



Soaking it to them: the BAA has turned Gatwick and Heathrow into huge out-of-town shopping centres

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

international departure lounge at Heathrow Terminal One increased its size from 4,000 square metres to 16,000 square metres (400 per cent), yet seating allocation only rose from 800 to 2,000 seats (150 per cent). By contrast, the number of shops rose from eight to 31 (387 per cent), and of food outlets from one to five (500 per cent).

I was flying from Terminal One only last month. All is glossy and new, clean and tidy in the shopping areas; in the walkways and the departure lounge, however, it's an altogether different story. They are fitted with stained, worn-out carpet held together with

the BAA is scared of the impact that the loss of duty-free benefits to passengers travelling within the EU will have, if the legislation concerning this comes into force, as anticipated, on 1 July 1999. Yet I wonder what effect the airport shopping boom is having on the costs of the carriers, as passengers stagger on to their aircraft laden with last-minute duty-free shopping?

The strategy being pursued by the BAA is the supreme example of the folly of knee-jerk privatisation, whereby a previously nationalised company feels obliged, on behalf of its shareholders, to pursue a course it was

landside (to everybody) and airside (to passengers only). The retail balance heavily favours airside shopping at the moment, but the possible abolition of intra-EU duty-free benefits will significantly dent the BAA's income and may lead to a shift in emphasis.

Asked last year by one of the planning inspectors conducting the Terminal Five inquiry how the BAA would react if conditions were imposed to limit landside shopping, Michael Maine, of the BAA, said objections would be raised, even though such conditions would be 'totally unnecessary'. As Peter Brown, spokesman for Local Authorities Against Terminal Five, explains, 'Under current arrangements, the application is essentially for a big box: what is put in that box is entirely at the discretion of the BAA.'

An air terminal should be an air terminal – a pleasant, efficient, relaxed place for boarding passengers on to planes with a minimum of fuss. I cringe at the thought that the last impression many people take home with them when leaving the UK is of a cluttered, frenzied, shopping mall, a bargain-basement bazaar from which there is no escape. And I cringe yet again when I see BAA's crass advertising on television, using a larger-than-life image of a man in a suit to make VAT and duty-free purchases.

I am not against airport shopping per se: it is the scale of the BAA's operation that appalls me. The new airport at Hamburg, for example, has shops, but the departure lounge is not overwhelmed by them. The Eurostar Terminal at Waterloo (a close equivalent) similarly strikes a balance between providing space for shops where last-minute essentials might be

bought, and plenty of space for waiting passengers to sit in peace and comfort. Of course, the check-in line for Eurostar is just 30 minutes prior to departure, and it has no duty- or VAT-free shopping.

British airports, by contrast, are partly so overcrowded because passengers are encouraged to check in so early. (And then they are stuck in the departure lounge with nothing to do but shop.)

In November last year, *Retail Week* listed Sir John Egan, chief executive of the BAA, as one of the 50 most important people in British retailing. What happened to the business of running Britain's airports? Sure, people might want to buy a newspaper or pick up a paperback, or they might suddenly realise they forgot to pack a toothbrush. But airport shopping has gone way beyond the means of providing such a service. In the words of one of the BAA's recent press releases: 'Everything you needed and quite a few things you didn't even know you needed are now available.'

Such rampant consumerism offends me, even as a retailer myself. I am also concerned about the impression it gives to visitors to our country. For I am a designer, one who passionately believes in the dignity of fitness of purpose. I am also a taxpayer, and as such I object to the enrichment of BAA's shareholders at the expense of tax lost on airside purchases – tax losses for which the rest of us have to pay. BAA has quite lost sight of its original purpose, turning our airports into major retail outlets, with the opportunity to catch your plane if you can find it. These are fundamental changes, yet they have never been presented in government or the planners.

## DAVID AARONOVITCH



### Postal strikes

This week, the magnificently named Terry MP Dame Angela Rumbold wrote a still note to one of her constituents, the equally well-monitored Hilary Pentecost. In it, Dame Angela committed the unforgivable sin of telling Pentecost, a constant whinger, where to get off. This week, I have collected a series of letters in a similarly frank but suicidal vein, which really ought to get sent.

From the Vice-Chancellor's Office, New University of Ulster

Dear Mr Burns, Burns Burns Burns Burns Burns, Thank you for your application to read English Literature here in Ulster. I am sorry for any delay in replying, but it took five members of our entries office more than a month to decipher your handwriting and spelling. This included calling in a number of language specialists, following up one (later discredited) theory that your letter had been written in Serbo-Croat by a traumatised refugee from ethnic cleansing.

When we finally understood that your illiterate scrawl was supposed to constitute a request to sit at the feet of Professor McQuibbhart and inhale the poetry and prose of these isles, our hearts sank. But, dear Mr B, beggars cannot be choosers (except in your case, apparently), so we look forward to receiving you in Ulsterpool in late September. Student accommodation is limited, so you would be well advised to purchase a tent. Catalogues, including flysheets in the university colours (maroon, puce and white), are available upon request.

Yours sincerely, Sir Hamish Hamilton

From Alastair Campbell, Leader of the Opposition's Office

Dear Señor Delgado, I am writing to you, in your capacity as Mayor of Benidorm, to warn you of the forthcoming visit of our transport spokesperson, Glenda Jackson, to your resort next week. It is just a publicity stunt in advance of our general election, and not a piece of sabotage cooked up with your rivals in Benidorm's tourist trade. She'll stay a couple of hours, get photographed with a pair of big-bellied Brummies and then push off.

From the Chairman of the Conservative Party  
Dear Charlie and Maurice, I have a confession. You remember that slightly drunken game we played in the upstairs room at the Fiel and Compass last month – who can design the most ridiculous, self-defeating poster ever? And Little Fox-Croftin came up with this hilarious idea involving Tony Blair. Well, to cut a long story short, I put it in my briefcase, where somehow it got mixed up with the real designs. So I'm afraid it's coming down to a billboard nearby.

'A yappy dog the size of a rat on steroids was turned into a bundle of fluff'

From the Secretary of the Kennel Club

Dear dog owner, Following the unfortunate incident involving Tracey Dykes' chihuahua Chicky and the valium – in which a nervous, yappy dog the size and attractiveness of a rat on steroids was turned into a docile bundle of inert fluff – the committee has decided that all chihuahuas will be given valium before club events. And their owners.

Yours faithfully, Dame Buntz Tooth

From the Shadow Minister for Overseas Aid

Dear Tony, I think I owe it to you to be honest. Forget all that stuff about 'dark forces' and presentation. It's all bullocks. It's you I can't stand. Just one of those things, I suppose.

FOAD, Clare

From TESDA Superstewies

Dear Customer, This product, 'pure minced English lamb', is guaranteed to contain no more than 21 per cent beef. An occasional bit of prawn may also make an unrecognisable appearance. But it's better than tinned, or old sticking plasters, isn't it? Come again.

H Groot, quality control.

Heathrow's check-in desks are falling to pieces. Even a Third World country would feel disgraced by the squalor and shabbiness

odd lengths of black tape, patched plastic tiles, odd wires hanging all over the place, broken chairs with their stuffing hanging out, cigarette burns on table tops, rubbish on the floors. The check-in desks are falling to pieces.

Even a Third-World country would feel disgraced by the squalor and shabbiness. It's transparently clear where BAA's priorities lie. No doubt it would blame the passengers' loutish behaviour, perhaps it should look to its own loutish advertising for the source of this behaviour.

The BAA argues that it needs to develop airport shopping to keep its running costs as low as possible and to fund the expansion of airport capacity. The latter will naturally incorporate an even greater number of shops than we already have. And, of course,

never intended to follow. Answerable mainly to its board and shareholders, the BAA enjoys a monopoly on tax- and duty-free retail space, which it shares with a select group of retailers. Tax- and duty-free purchases deny the Government millions of pounds of revenue. How is it that the same Government can be so unquestioning of the unique advantages it has created for a privatised company and a select group of high-street retailers?

The Heathrow Terminal Five inquiry brings to light some interesting attitudes towards shopping on the part of the BAA. Already, Gatwick Airport, in my opinion, is being advertised as a shopping destination regardless of whether people are then boarding a plane. There is a blurring of the distinction between what is available

## 'Independence Day': battle begins here

It's a war movie, a love story, spangled with cliché. What more could you want, asks Emma Daly

The year's worst schlockbuster. Spend your cash on popcorn instead, says Ruth Picardie

Thrill to the triumph of good over evil, weep at the loss of mother and father, laugh at the devil-may-care one-liners of the wisecracking heroes, marvel at the ring of fire cracking the Empire State Building – *Independence Day* has it all, the ultimate B-movie.

Of course it's rubbish, but what fun is it even if you're not an American. Obviously, now that the US of A rules the world it needs a new challenge: to rule the universe, and Hollywood has come up with trumps. It's a war movie, a love story, a thriller, a horror/sci-fi comedy and a tale of redemption, bathed in special effects and a nod to the rest of the world.

Women, admittedly, get rather short shrift, keeping the home fires burning while the men go off and do their thing, but at least there are lots of men to watch. The President, handsome, decent, WASP, the boffin, sexy, smart and Jewish; the pilot, sexy, brave and black.

The aliens are distant cousins to ET and descendants of the alien plot-twist, they are the beings that might justify the existence of the *National Enquirer* and the news section of *Sunday Sport*.

The makers of *Independence Day* have, in a stunning cinematic achievement, managed to assemble pretty much every film cliché there is in a single package. Apart from the obvious sci-fi precursors – *Star Wars*, *Close Encounters* – the movie pays tribute to *Top Gun*, to all war movies and all hacker movies, the *War of the Worlds*, *Dave*, *The Gods Must Be Crazy*, *Lassie*, *North by North-West* and even to the James Bond oeuvre (the opening scene with a submarine commander reporting something fishy on his telephone hot-line).

Performances are charming and cheesy, the minor characters bring pathos (the Grim Reaper looms above them), product placement is unusual (Sky News in the Oval Office? CNN should sue). And it's not often that you see the symbols of American power (the White House, the Stealth bomber) blown away. The stereo-

types are splendid – plucky Brits, chain-smoking Russians, inscrutable Orientals and spear-carrying Africans. Aussies in the audience cheered the shots of Sydney Harbour, though apparently in the US the blizzing of Washington drew rapturous applause.

Best of all there are no dreary, millionaire stars. Instead the makers have employed actors – Jeff Goldblum, Judd Hirsch (who made the leap from *Taxi* to the big screen), Bill Pullman (who you would probably recognise, though I can't remember any of his other movies) and some plucky babes who will, I hope, be launched to greater glory next time around.

*Independence Day* is the ultimate in easy viewing. It does not inform or educate or offend. It is well worth a fiver and two hours of your time, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.



Aliens rearrange the White House: but is 'Independence Day' worth the ticket price?

Sure, it deals in the grossest stereotypes: Harvey Fierstein, the mother-obsessed, neurotic gay; Judd Hirsch, the kvetching, yarmulka-twirling Jew. Sure, the film is an organ of American patriotism. Sure, nobody seems bothered by the slaughter of millions. But so what? Hollywood schlockbusters deal in types, not characters, and the land of the free is always the goodie in this popcorn world.

That's the way I like it, and this summer has been great. *The Rock*? Loved every bombastic, violent, clichéd, testosterone-crazed minute. *Mission Impossible*? Couldn't get enough pseudo-scientific hokum and machismo-fuelled chase scenes on the tops of trains. *Twister*? Deliciously mindless action. At the end of a desk-rage-filled day at work, or a snotty weekend with the kids, I want to be pulverised by

explosions; I don't want to be made to think. Naturally, I couldn't wait for *Independence Day*, the biggest grossing blockbuster of all time, featuring mass destruction! Exploding American icons! Jeff Goldblum in military uniform! But half way through I started to wish I'd spent the evening slobbering in front of *Three Colours: Red*, for *Independence Day* is the mother of all bores, failing every criteria of escapism action.

First, the plot has more holes in it than the moon, and plot is the engine that drives the schlock machine. Why, exactly, are the aliens attacking Earth? Their only aim seems to practise their smart bombing technique, which is highly refined already. What happens to Harvey Fierstein, introduced early on as one of the types (black, Jewish, gay) who then bury their differences in save the world?

What kind of President allows an inarticulate computer boffin, plus intensely irritating dad, on board Air Force One? And why bother introducing the First Lady, when the President grieves for all of five seconds when she sighs and dies?

Second – and this is a much greater sin – the baddies aren't proper bad guys; they're not interesting enough to make you scared (this is known as the Hammett Lecter effect).

In *The Rock*, the anti-hero was a twitching Nam vet teetering between madness and valour, *Mission Impossible* was a dazzling double-bluff of spot-the-enemy. *Twister* had problems because the bad guy was a tornado, and tornadoes aren't wicked or devious; they just blow a lot.

So it was with the *Independence Day* aliens, who are a tiny bit scary because they are ripped off from the original, nightmare, *Alien*. Otherwise, all they seem to want to do is play Cowboys and Indians with planet Earth, which is probably why the film is a certificate 12.

So don't believe the hype, grown-up Earthlings. *Independence Day* is a colossal bore. Spend your ticket money on popcorn instead.

THE INDEPENDENT  
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WEEKEND IN  
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It's the trip of a lifetime with Holsten Pils this Bank Holiday in Barcelona.

Holsten Pils is set to hijack Barcelona, the party capital of Europe, and will play host to 'The Holsten Remix'. This three day trip (August 23-25) of Bacchanalian madness will feature a super cool line up of international bands, DJ's, clubs and bars.

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We have managed to get our hands on 2 PAIRS of tickets that money cannot buy. 4 lucky readers will get the opportunity to join 1,000 of Britain's finest party people in this weekend of a lifetime, courtesy of Holsten Pils. The lucky winners will fly from London to Barcelona, stay two nights at a fantastic hotel and join the party on Friday and Saturday night. This includes: Exclusive tickets to the Holsten Remix event, exclusive tickets to the pre-gig party at Otto Zutz, return flights from London to Barcelona, hotel accommodation (twin rooms) with breakfast included, a meal with free drink will be provided on Friday and Saturday and limited coach transport in Barcelona.

To win a pair of tickets to the event simply name the name of Leftfield's current album and call:

0891 252 093

Leave your answer and name and address with a daytime telephone number.

Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date of midnight August 19, 1996. Calls cost 30p per minute plus 40p per minute for other lines. Your call should not last more than two minutes. National Newspaper Publishing rules apply. There is no cash alternative. Entrants must be over 18, have a valid UK passport and be available August 22-25, 1996.

Michael Harrison

Apart from the windfall tax to impose on the water, electricity, transport and telecoms sectors, a Labour victory was probably the end of a takeover boom and usher in high corporate taxes.

If Sir Stanley Kahan is right, there are eight reasons for corporate Britain to fear a change of government. But when senior businessmen start sounding off about Labour, the suspicion immediately arises that what they are really concerned about is not the coming of a new political administration, but the particular industries, not the individual firms, but the impact of their own pockets.

Improving, say, 60 per cent of tax on those earning more than £100,000 would bring in £1.1 billion a year. Unlike John Smith's share budget in 1992, which helped Labour, the suspicion immediately arises that what they are really concerned about is not the coming of a new political administration, but the particular industries, not the individual firms, but the impact of their own pockets.

ek

best sun beds. I mean, I always thought the Reds went under the beds.

Four old Glenda Jackson. I bet she had to grit her teeth like they've never been gritted before when she was offered the joyous task of representing the beach in Benidorm to promote the Labour Party. I really can't think of anything worse than trying to persuade the Brits on the beach in a holiday town to vote for Labour.

It seems it was a bit of an uphill struggle as she fought upon tanned skin after tanned skin who pushed her an undying love for Labour. I went to Benidorm once about half an hour. I mean Jack, from numerous balconies and from the ground, people stared at her from the sunbathing rather sunstroke or alcohol poisoning and combining the two in that glorious Brit neanderthal half-voulturing, half-leeching, Ammanour. Into all this is planted the cool and committed Glenda... a must have been hell. Apparently she also gave up after half an hour. New Labour, new danger? In Glenda's case, a strange opposite slogan.

Benidorm queen: Glenda in hell



## obituaries

## Julian Strykowski

Julian Strykowski was one of the more interesting as well as one of the more controversial of Polish 20th-century novelists. He is unfortunately not yet translated into English (with the one exception of *The Inn*, 1966), and therefore not so well-known to the English-speaking world as other Polish writers such as Witold Gombrowicz, Bruno Schulz, Zbigniew Herbert, Czesław Miłosz, and Tadeusz Kościuszko. He was never an open critic of the Communist regime, and thus did not attract the Western approbation frequently afforded to dissident and émigré writers regardless of their literary ability.

His controversial past ensured that Strykowski remained a lonely figure though recent publicity surrounding his novel *Silence* (1993), in which he openly declared his homosexuality for the first time at the age of 88, provoked discussion of his other themes – his Jewish heritage and his one-time deep commitment to Communism – and helped to establish him as an important literary figure. Many of his novels, published originally in the Fifties and early Sixties, have been recently republished.

Strykowski was born Stark and took his later name from the small provincial town of Stryj in Eastern Galicia, then in the Austrian-ruled section of partitioned Poland, where he grew up in a shtetl (an exclusively Jewish community), as the son of a Jewish schoolteacher. Although Strykowski claimed over to have been a believer, he was nevertheless deeply influenced by the enclosed, traditional, intensely religious atmosphere of the shtetl. During his teenage years he immersed himself in the study of Hebrew and became a committed follower of Zionism, a creed which he was soon to abandon but later re-embraced following his disillusionment with Communism during the 1950s.

In 1932 he completed a degree in Polish literature at the University of Lvov (now Lviv) and became a grammar-school teacher in the town of Bolechów. He joined the Communist Party of the Western Ukraine and was imprisoned for his party activities during 1935-36 by the inter-war Polish government. When war broke out in 1939 he was living in Warsaw but returned to Lviv, where he was employed by the Polish Communist daily the *Red Standard*. When the Germans reached Lviv he moved to Moscow, remaining there until 1946, and

then returned to Poland, by then a Communist satellite state.

From 1946 to 1952 he worked for the Polish Press Agency, and from 1954 was for many years a member of the editorial board of the leading literary monthly *Zwrotnica*. His disillusionment with Communism was gradual. A severe blow to his loyalty had been the execution of Rudolf Slansky, former General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, in November 1952, for allegedly being a Zionist, but it was not until the expulsion of the philosopher Leszek Kościuszko from the Polish party in 1966 that he finally gave up his own membership.

Strykowski's involvement with Communism, especially during the war years, led to his being hounded by recent interviews into justifying his former behaviour and loyalties; he tended to fudge the issue by claiming that he always regarded himself as "a writer, not a hero" and that his former ideological blindness was no more reprehensible than that of many other people. In an interview with the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* in 1994 he also strongly suggested that his lifelong suppression of his homosexuality fundamentally impaired his ability to be free and open regarding any moral issue that touched him personally.

It is therefore noteworthy that the area which occupied Strykowski most in his novels was that of personal moral responsibility and the threats made to an individual's conscience by the pressures of the real world and especially by the dilemmas forced upon individual human beings by historical and cultural change. His characters' need for a strong moral and cultural orientation is deeply interlinked with his Jewish background, the only experience in his life with which he consistently identified. His best works portray Jewish themes. His first novel *Voices in the Darkness* (written in 1943-46 in Moscow and published in 1956) depicts the tragic frustration experienced by an orthodox believer faced with modern cultural and social changes which he cannot accept but to which his close family and fellow villagers succumb. Later novels portraying Jewish themes include *The Inn*, *April's Dream* (1975), *The Stranger from Narbonne* (1983) and *Echo* (1978). Meanwhile other novels, *Great Terror* (1979) and its sequel *The Same, but Otherwise* (1990), are largely autobiographical; in the first of these he portrays his experiences as a Communist in wartime Lviv.

As portraits of Jewish life in Poland, Strykowski's works stand comparison with those of both Bruno Schulz and of Isaac Bashevis Singer, but what makes him unique is the combination of a first-hand knowledge of shtetl life with a personal involvement with Communism.

As portraits of Jewish life in Poland, Strykowski's works stand comparison with those of both Bruno Schulz and of Isaac Bashevis Singer, but what makes him unique is the combination of a first-hand knowledge of shtetl life with a personal involvement with Communism.

Ursula Phillips

Julian Stark (Julian Strykowski), writer: born Stryj, Poland 27 April 1905; died Warsaw 8 August 1996.



Strykowski: 'a writer, not a hero'

## Sir Frank Whittle

It is sad that John Golley, who knew him so well, should have repeated so many of the old myths about Frank Whittle (obituary, 10 August), writes Anthony Furse.

There is no doubt that most of the delays in making British gas-turbines to Whittle's designs were due to his long refusal to allow any of the established aero-engine manufacturers to work on his designs.

As a serving officer, the RAF not only kept him on full pay whilst he took an Engineering degree at Cambridge, and did a further year as a postgraduate, but continued to do so when he decided to allow his invention to be developed by a private company, stipulating only that the Air Ministry must have Free Crown Usage of engines developed to his patents.

Despite the adverse report on Whittle's invention from Dr Griffith of the Royal Aircraft Establishment in 1937, Air Marshal Sir Wilfrid Freeman, Air Member for Research and Development, continued to back Whittle, on the advice of Professor Tizard, providing first £1,900 towards a total cost of £9,000, and then a further £6,000, before the outbreak of war. Early in 1940, Freeman listed the gas turbine as one of the few "potential war-winners" and backed the decision to give contracts to Rover to put Whittle's engines into production, because Whittle refused to work with the aero-engine firms.

Churchill's decision to put Beaverbrook in charge of Aircraft Production led to the de-

parture of Freeman, Tedder and Tizard, Whittle's three main supporters, by December 1940, and although full information about his invention was given to the GEC company in the United States, and to de Havilland, Metrovick and Armstrong Siddeley in Britain, as early as 1941, and although Rolls-Royce gave Whittle endless help, production of Whittle engines was restricted to the Rover company until Freeman returned to the Ministry of Aircraft Production with full executive powers in October 1942.

Co-operation between Rover and Whittle had deteriorated by then and Whittle had become a difficult colleague under the stress of his work, and the side-effects of his dependence on benzadrine, to which he had been addicted since 1940, and Freeman realised that Rover lacked the resources to make successful engines. After failing to persuade Whittle to throw in his lot with Rolls-Royce, he judged that to force the issue might make things worse, and simply transferred the Rover gas-turbine factories to R-R instead.

Hives, and Sidgreaves, his Chairman, were far too committed and patriotic to have worried about the effect on their piston engine business of a switch to turbines, and but for Whittle's prejudiced phobia against the aero-engine establishment, he could have been given the full support of Rolls-Royce as early as 1940. A great man, but at times his own worst enemy.



Cullen as 'Wee Burney' in *Rab C. Nesbitt*

Photograph: David Quickshanks

## Eric Cullen

As "Wee Burney", the younger son of the foul-mouthed Scottish philosopher in the BBC2 comedy series *Rab C. Nesbitt*, the 4ft 4in actor Eric Cullen achieved national fame.

The star, Gregor Fisher, had taken the character of Rab from the cult series *Naked Video* to his own programme, complete with a family consisting of Elaine C. Smith as his wife Mary and Cullen and Andrew Fairlie as his revelling children Burney and Gash. While their father, forever wearing a string vest, would utter sexist diatribes in a Scottish accent as thick as broth, they would deal with problems such as rats in the kitchen by clubbing them to death with a frying pan.

Cullen made his television debut at the age of 13 as Wee Jaikie, one of the "Gorbals Diehards" in the BBC Scotland serial *Hungrytown*, adapted from John Buchan's novel, at a drama college with his older sister and worked consistently as a child actor. His television appearances included roles in *A Sense of Freedom* (1981), the drama based on the murderer Jimmy Boyle's autobiography, *Playfair*, *The Cam-*

erons, *Govan Ghost Story* and *Deathwatch*. He left school with no qualifications but went to college, then took a degree in social sciences at Glasgow Polytechnic with a view to a career in teaching.

Returning to acting, he appeared in the comedy sketch series *A Kick Up the Eighties* (1984) and alongside Robbie Coltrane and Tracey Ullman in *Laugh, I Nearly Said My Licence For*, as well as with Rikki Fulton in *Scotch and Wry*. But he was best known for the role of Burney, which he first played in a 1988 Christmas Special, *Rab C. Nesbitt's Seasonal Greetings*, the first spin-off from *Naked Video*. He acted in the first three full-length series of *Rab C. Nesbitt* (1990-93) and also appeared in a stage version which toured Britain in 1993.

Having made his name in the comedy, he became co-presenter – as "Norton Yarnally" – of a Scottish Television Sunday morning children's series, *Werrys Boy 902101* (1993), alongside Grant Stott, who has since joined Children's BBC.

Last year, Cullen was convicted of child pornography offences, when his own history of

being sexually abused since the age of 13 was revealed, but his nine-month prison sentence was reduced to three years' probation on appeal. He had not worked since, but the writer of *Rab C. Nesbitt*, Ian Patterson, and the producer, Colin Gilbert, were planning at the time of Cullen's death to invite him to appear in one episode of the next series of the hit show.

Cullen's theatre work included appearances in *Volpone*, at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, *Pride of the Clyde*, at the King's Theatre in Glasgow and Edinburg, and a tour of *George's Marvellous Medicine* with Borderline Theatre Company.

He also appeared regularly in pantomimes including *Mother Goose*, *The Gaiety Whirl*, and *Tom Thumb*, all at the Gaiety Theatre, in Ayr, and also *Babes in the Wood* at the King's Theatre, Glasgow. He was a patron of the Volunteer Centre in Scotland and of the David Cullen Childhood Leukaemia Fund.

Anthony Hayward

Eric Cullen, actor: born 1965; died 16 August 1996.



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# The Independent Weekend



## Who the Dickens invented Oliver Twist?

DJ Taylor on the art of George Cruikshank

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### More women are victims of INTESTACY than DIVORCE

A woman, on average, lives longer than a man. So she is more likely to have to face the difficulties of intestacy – the legal term for being left in a mess because her husband didn't make a Will.

Many men assume that, on their death, all they own will automatically go to their wives. This isn't so. When a man dies intestate, not just his wife but brothers, sisters and even cousins may have a claim on what he owned.

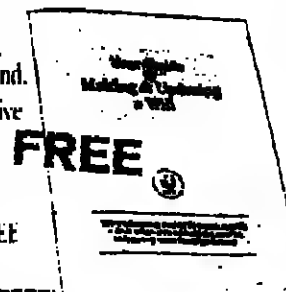
His widow may have to sell the house to pay off his relations. None of this need happen if he makes a will. Yet seven out of ten people fail to take this simple step.

Now, as a service to the public, WWF UK (World Wide Fund For Nature) has produced its own plain language guide to making a will. It explains:

- why everyone needs to make a will
- how to go about it
- and how to minimise tax liability on what you leave behind.

Don't leave it to chance. Give yourself the peace of mind of knowing your loved ones are properly provided for.

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Illustration: Mary Evans

UTOMATIC TEMPER  
S FEEL DECIDED!



## living

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## Corsets and codpieces hold court



There is one thing guaranteed to make your palms itch with the desire to see something, it's a sign saying "No Entry". Hampton Court, still inhabited here and there by old ladies who have endeared themselves to the crown, is full of them: black gloss-painted barriers scattered liberally under arches.

Jane Malcolm-Davies, in a black wool minidress, marches past one and through a low doorway. Beyond is a magnolia-painted corridor. "This is actually part of Wolsey's apartments," she says. "It used to be a delightful Department of the Environment green." Behind the walls, early visitors are looking at the Cardinal's exquisite taste in wood. Here, at the cutting edge of history, is something more practical: a lift that can hold five people, as long as they've brushed their teeth. It takes us to the second floor. There are buttons for the first and third, but it can't stop at either. The exit from the first is actually bricked up.

Next to a grace-and-favour apartment, whose ornately carved entrance belonged to that unfortunate divorcee, Catharine of Aragon, we enter a series of cluttered rooms. It's like being backstage at a very well-endowed school play: hulking racks of puffed silk dresses, swords, shoes, pikes, codpieces, corsets and hose. A mantelshelf serves as a stand for a set of polystyrene heads. Each bears a frizzy *perruque*. Elizabeth Taylor would be licking her lips.

Half a dozen people hustle about in various states of undress. Tristan Langlois, who kicks off the first tour of the William and Mary apartments, is already frock-coated, and fiddles with his wig. Lucy Capito, who guides people through Henry VIII's state rooms a quarter of an hour later, has all but her lacing to complete. Julie Hudson and Alison Sim wear linen shifts. Roy Porter is in frilly shirtsleeves.

There's a certain air of tension today. Julie, just back from holiday, is doing her first day as a Tudor, after three-and-a-half years in the following century. She's been preparing for a couple of months. "I'm very nervous," she says. "I did all the research before I went, and when I came back I couldn't remember anything about William and Mary, which I've been doing for more than three years. And Henry VIII is a total blank now." Alison calmly expects her to be fine. "It's always like this when you step out. But you bounce off the room a lot; there's always something that will spark your imagination, or someone will ask a question that sets you off."

Roy, meanwhile, is doing his first day ever in costume. He's going to be a Yeoman of the Guard – "a Stuart Yeoman of the Guard" – and shadow Tristan. He came down from Oxford a couple of

Serving wenches, Yeomen of the Guard and 17th-century grandes dames wander the royal apartments of Hampton Court with groups of captivated guests in tow. But this is no Kitschy Historyland® theme tour. The art of historical reinterpretation is serious business.

Photograph by Glynn Griffiths

SERENA MACKESY



In another life

years ago ("I guess the subfusc prepared me for dressing up for a living") and worked in a warehouse before he joined JMD Heritage Interpretation. "It wasn't very enjoyable. No colour, no frills." He's got the frills now, in abundance: Jane is picking his hose. "Do you want the green or the pink?" Everyone looks. "Pink," they cry. "Definitely," says Jane. "Shows how much of a man you are."

Hampton Court has been dressing a proportion of its guides in costume since 1992. The idea was the brainchild of the Historic Royal Palaces Interpretation Manager, Anne Fletcher. "We wanted to think of a way of giving information that was fun, and to make it as interactive as possible. Theory about how people learn and retain information suggests that the more you involve people, the more they remember. If you put a sign in a room saying, 'This was where the far-dole was danced', they look at it and it means nothing. If you show it taking place, it's more memorable. If you let them learn the steps, it's even more so." After a successful experiment with hobby historians in the Tudor kitchens, Jane, who had co-founded the heritage interpretation company Past Pleasures in 1989, was drafted to set up a professional team, and the rest, literally, is history.

The Malcolm-Davies guides have taken the costume thing to a new level. One could assume, glancing them unaware across the Clock Court, that this was some ghastly themeparking, and indeed the guides themselves refer jokingly to their patches as "Tudorland" and "William and Maryland". Actually, they're more serious than that: you need a degree at least to be part of

JMD's 18-strong staff, and everyone is expected to contribute to the knowledge pool each year. Alison's book, *The Tudor Housewife*, is published by Sutton in September, and academic vacations see James Loxley, a lecturer at the University of Leeds, don tricorn and codpiece and swank round the royal apartments. There is very little you can ask these people that they won't be able to come up with a plausible answer to.

And the punters love them. In Tudorland, Lucy leads a group of a good hundred round the sights. They brush occasionally against another group led by a more familiar type of guide – there will always be people who will doubt the credibility of someone dressed as a serving wench. Lucy's gang is captivated by the combination of the intricacy, humour and grinding knowledge, and participate eagerly.

Oddly, people seem more willing to ask questions of someone in a wimple than a badge. Maybe one feels less self-conscious about hand-waving when the person one is approaching looks so much more conspicuous.

There is also a tactile quality about these guides that you could never get from a hairdo wearing a pussycat bow. Their clothes, made in obsessively accurate detail under the auspices of the costume manager Caroline Johnson and costing around £1,000 per outfit (and that's before you add the wigs and shoes), are subjected to constant assault. "A lot of people," Julie sighs as she pulls on a starched linen cap, "want to feel your corset. Particularly men." Brenda, responsible for costume maintenance, has her work cut out. "The wear and tear is enormous. A lot of the garments can come apart very easily in an afternoon. The braid on

the Yeoman of the Guard costume can come in hanging off. I'll be putting them back together during the rest periods."

Apart from the manhandling, they enjoy their costumes. "My bodice," says Jane, who waltzes through the apartments dressed as a 17th-century grande dame, complete with heart-shaped beauty spots, "is better than a Wonderbra. It's worth all the inconvenience. It gives me a cleavage, which I would never have in normal life." And then there's the underwear question. "Personally I find it more comfortable not to wear any knickers. You've got all these layers of petticoats and it gets very hot. Knickers were really only invented in the late 19th/early 20th century. Actually, I find that quite an interesting subject to discuss with visitors, and they do ask, you know. And about codpieces. Laundry. Personal hygiene. All these things are of great fascination to the general public. You can go from underwear to politics in one breath. It's funny the leaps you can make."

Lunchtime, back in the dressing room, and everyone dons butchers' aprons as protection. Roy has acquitted himself well, even if his *peruque* and flat top did make him look like the guitarist in Guns N' Roses. James fishes a wrist-watch from the flap pocket of his frock coat. Tristan is a bit battered from the personal attentions of a thousand punters. "They'll come up and start tugging wigs and grabbing clothing without asking you. They wouldn't do that with an ordinary guide. The first time it happened, I was shocked. It's this velvet suit that does it. I get far fewer people wanting to touch me in my green ooc."

"I know," Lucy replies. "A lot of them think we're only there for photographs and that we're no better than models. They put their arms round you and try to kiss you – particularly foreign meo. They think because you're dressed as a wench that you are ooc."

This sounds like purgatory. They disagree. "It's a brilliant job," says Julie. "It's one of the few ones where you're encouraged to carry on learning. You're always researching, you're always reading, you're always finding out new things. That doesn't happen in most jobs." Lucy still gets a buzz from it. "I love it. It's great seeing people's fascination. They've seen the clothes in pictures, but they can't imagine how it worked in reality. It's like seeing a picture come to life."

Things can get a tad tricky, though. They're surprised by how few adversarial point-scorers they come across, but they all get put on the spot from time to time. "This lady once asked me," Lucy recalls, "if we were in the room where Jane Eyre was executed." Old Henry, it seems, was more of a polygamist than we thought.

## It's not cool to like Bruce. People feel embarrassed about seeing a macho man show emotion

Anything had that happens to me is. I'm certain, a result of not touching Bruce Springsteen's hand. It was months ago, but I still feel angry because practically everyone else in the whole of the Brixton Academy got to press flesh with The Boss. It reminded me of all the times I didn't get a going-home bag at a party because the taller kids got in the way and took them all.

It's not been the best week. I can't sleep and everyone hates me and I'm still not Elizabeth Taylor in 1956. The last bit is the worst. Because sometimes, I almost convince myself that I am. Or I forget that I'm not. And then I catch sight of my reflection in the halogen-splashed ladies' room of the pub. And I look like a crazy lady. "Wanna change my clothes, my hair, my face!" So now I want to be

Bruce Springsteen. It takes less lipstick. It's easier to live "Born to Run" than "Suddenly, Last Summer".

Richard agrees. He's a musician I became mates with because... he loves Bruce too. This is actually a bigger deal than it sounds because, in modern pop, you're allowed to have about three reference points: The Jam, The Beatles and Madness. That's to say, we're all for working class icons, so long as they're either a) lad rock; b) experimental and sterile; c) jokey. It is not cool to like Bruce. People feel deeply embarrassed about seeing a macho man show that much emotion. It's like watching your father cry. Pop insiders don't approve of anyone who gives that much, who doesn't stand stock still at the microphone, with his hands behind his back, who doesn't

EMMA FORREST



in lieu of talent grasp aimlessly at irony. Richard is older than me, with a family and a real life. But we meet up for a drink now and then and have our little Bruce time before he heads back to the studio and tries to persuade his hand to

do a cover of "Candy's Room". Today he is on a mission. He must have a jacket like Springsteen's on the cover of *Darkness on the Edge of Town*. By the end of the day, I swear he has tried on every black leather jacket in London, and still he finds nothing "tough" enough. I get cranky and need to eat, but don't want to stray off the Bruce theme, so we go to the Hard Rock Café, where we sit under the platinum disc of "Born in the USA". The waitresses at the Hard Rock are like the air stewardesses on TWA. Middle-aged and stressed, with sore feet and high hair.

As our waitress slams down my Coke, I tell Richard about the time I interviewed Joo Boo Jovi and found myself asking, as my third question, "Hey, you know Bruce Springsteen, don't you?"

He'd like me, wouldn't he?" Jon Bon looked at me strangely. "No, I don't think he'd like you at all. I think you'd scare him."

Richard encourages me, and by the time I get home, I am a woman obsessed. Bruce likes red heads? Guess who leans over the tub and dyes their hair? Grace yells that if she has to bear 30 seconds more of "Thunder Road", she will be physically sick. It is at this point that not only must I meet him, but I must also be him. Dad is still hard at work when I pop into the office with the sleeve of *Darkness on the Edge of Town* to ask if he thinks I look like Bruce. "Yes, a lot. Look, you've both got two eyes and a nose and a mouth. What's wrong with your hair?"

I meet the girls for a few drinks, but

that night worse than ever. I really can't sleep. Road workers are doing a little midnight mending outside my window. I watch them for a while. I have a bath. I read a book. I resolve to sit in bed and stare at the ceiling. Then the door bell rings. The screech of the bell ringing always scares me, even in the middle of the day. I creep down the stairs, wrapping my dressing-gown tight around me. Through the intercom I hear his growl. I lean out of the window and see Bruce on his Harley. The road workers are staring but he just calls up to me: "Fix yourself up pretty, come down here and get on that bike, girl. I saw you in the crowd at Brixton and I had to come for you. But you knew I would, didn't you baby? We're going down to the river". And we go.



## Smut-worm, mildew and chuckle-rot: how to cultivate comedy weeds

The press have it in for me! I'm convinced of it. Folks, I have a stonking great show at the Edinburgh Fringe this year, and it's not my fault if the audience doesn't get it! The reviews have been scathing, but what do they know? This is what I get for trying to do something different, for trying to knock down a few walls.

When I first came up with the idea for *Rich Hall On Ice*, people said: "Rich, it's crazy. Nobody wants to see stand-up on ice skates." But my mind was made up. I spent an entire year honing my skating techniques, practising the adagio movements, writing new material – and then I go to the Gilded Balloon and hey, there's no rink! As specified in my contract! Doesn't anybody read those things?

So now I'm dropping out onto the wooden stage of the Balloon every night in my ice skates and, I admit, maybe it's a little baffling to the audience. Also, the sequinned uni-tard is damned hot under those spotlights. Then there's the chorus of "Nice package!" cat-calls from the drunken yobboes at the front table. This is the kind of shit I have to put up with for being a pioneer.

Some people have been whingeing about the show's length, which is just over six hours. Folks, it's a lean, mean six hours. There's not an ounce of fat in that six hours! The show starts at midnight, it's over by sun-up. That's a lotta bang for the buck, if you ask me. Plus, my show has content. I have these comedians who claim to be "political", then trot out a few lame one-liners about how ugly Virginia Bottomley is. First of all, I think Virginia Bottomley is gorgeous!

Secondly, I have something to say and I say it. For example: I talk about the duplicity of the Nepalese freedom fighters' ideologies compared to their post-romantic socialist agenda. Everyone knows they're just trying to take over the lucrative rattan trade! And the whole time I'm pointing this out, I'm executing a deft series of complicated pirouettes. What do I get from my audience? Fish faces! Folks, it's the Fringe Festival. How's about lettin' your hair down for a change?

Look, this is a dog-eat-dog festival. You live and die by the reviewer's hand. I'm not getting a fair share. It's not my fault, it's not even the fault of the reviews. There's about 8,000 shows

### EDINBURGH

with RICH HALL

running up here and everyone's time is stretched to the limit. But I'm not sure that some of the critics coming to see me are qualified to be judging comedy. Here's just a fistful of the notices I've received (so far), and if you ask me, they're a little tunnel-sighted.

"Leave it to the Americans to serve up a bland and tasteless serving of underdone tripe! Rich Hall's comedy casserole came in a dish that could only be

described as chafing. Half-baked premises and a curdled delivery left a bitter after-taste in this critic's mouth. Here's my tip – keep 15 per cent of your material and forget the rest, hub, because the service and ambience were non-existent." Harold Cistern, *Guardian* (Food Critic).

"The perfect comedy looks like it hasn't been planned at all. It seems to spring up from the rich loam of creativity that gives nurture to its roots. Rich's garden of wisteria and laff-o-dils is far from perfect. Rather it is a tangled weed patch, its comedic growth blighted by an infestation of smut-worm, mildew and chuckle-rot. Six hours on stage? A judicious pruning might be in good order. C'moo Rich! Think 'hedge'! His smug delivery, like a floral bouquet delivered post-Valentine's, is dry and wilted. Forget-me-not? I think I will! Like a giant Sumatran flower at Kew Gardens, he should only open every 30 or 40 years because he stinks!" Sally Squamata, *Gardening Monthly*.

"A splendid performance! Rich Hall is adorable and a genius!" Virginia Bottomley, *National Heritage Newsletter*.

"DEATHS: Hall, Rich. Suddenly on stage, Edinburgh, August 9-31. The friends and family of Mr Hall wish to console all those who attended Mr Hall's show and sat with him during his protracted (six-hour) and debilitating decline on stage. His valiant fight to almost be funny serves as an inspiration to us all." *The Scotsman*, Obituaries page.

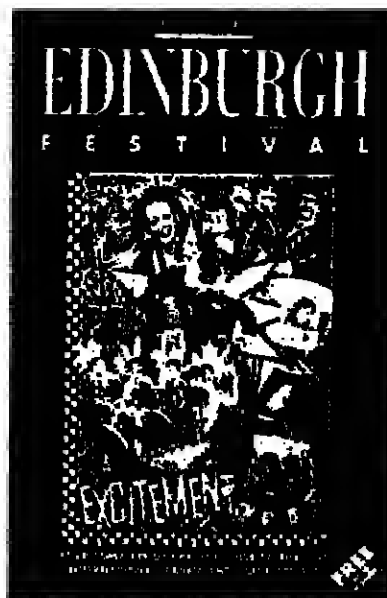
"American reject Rich Hall made a disappointing return to the comedy Oval last night, challenging the audience in one of the longest tests in history. Spinning and bouncing wildly in the corridor of uncertainty, the audience seemed uniformly relieved when it was 'over'." Helmut Thuterson, *Cricket News*.

"Pyntiss nd cryppy. Pure shytt." *Bala Cymrod, Dyfed*.

Like I said, what do they know? The bane of an artist is never to be understood! S'cuse me. I gotta go lace up for my show.

Emmy Award-winning comedian Rich Hall is performing at the Gilded Balloon, to 31 Aug (0131 226 5139).

Thomas Sufelife returns next month.



The Independent Edinburgh Festival guide – with comprehensive dayplanners to 21 days of music, theatre, comedy, film and fringe, plus our critics' choice of the shows you mustn't miss – available free at all good newsagents in the city

## Stepping out with the last of the great defectors

Mikhail Baryshnikov, at 48, is still hungry like a shark for new repertoire. Nadine Meisner caught up with his White Oak Dance Project in Spain

It is an odd experience to find the most phenomenal ballet dancer you have ever seen, or probably ever will, rolling at your feet in what resembles a baby's baggy romper suit. Mikhail Baryshnikov is crumpling in a few extra minutes of warm-up before a performance in the Spanish port of Santander; and he is trying, with grave courtesy, to answer my questions at the same time. He arches into a backward flop on to the large squashy blue balloon that seems to be the latest dance-apparatus fad, allowing muscles to be both buoyed up and mobile. At 48 he looks extraordinarily good, outwithstanding the past injuries – he has had three knee operations – that tend to mark any dancer's history like battle scars.

He is with the motley crew who make up the White Oak Dance Project, the modern dance company he founded six years ago in the USA with the choreographer Mark Morris, which arrives at the Coliseum for its second London visit. But now, in Santander, the stage has the air of an adventure playground, with the blue balloon, a couple of portable barres, a wooden wedge for stretching legs – and two imperturbable Spanish cleaning-ladies who travel back and forth in parallel, wielding huge brooms. For company class the White Oak dancers normally do ballet exercises; but this is the pre-performance warm-up, for which everyone pursues their own thing, reverting to the habits and preferences of their different backgrounds. Jamie Bishton, formerly with Twyla Tharp's company, is plugged into his Walkman and standing in splay-legged immobility relieved by a few occasional twitches. Patricia Lent (ex-Merce Cunningham) is lying on the floor, limbs spread apart in alarming spidery directions. Baryshnikov, the only one with ballet origins, fuses impeccably turned-out battements en croix with freestyle lurches and stretches.

The Baryshnikov of 20 years ago could halt in mid-air and then turn over on himself like a fish flipping through water; but like all classical princes he was not age-proof. After abandoning that punishing physicality, he could have recycled himself into the sedate mime roles of fathers and wicked fairies en travesty. But White Oak exists because what he has always sought is dance that will bring him new opportunities. And if modern dance is often anatomically kinder (Martha Graham continued into her seventies with leading roles), it also has a creative ferment that makes current efforts from ballet choreographers appear embalmed. As Baryshnikov says: "There is a big vacuum in ballet. Now, if you were seriously good as a ballet choreographer, you would be king of the world."

White Oak marks the culmination of tastes and knowledge Baryshnikov has gradually absorbed in the USA. He emigrated there in 1974 as the last of the big five Russian exiles, starting with Nijinsky and Pavlova, then Nureyev and Natalia Makarova, then Baryshnikov, all from the Kirov Ballet. From 1980 to 1989 he was director of American Ballet Theatre, during which he commissioned and performed work by modern dance heavyweights such as Morris and Tharp. "Although people wanted me to do the classics, I just wanted to work with choreographers," he says, vigorously rubbing warmth into his right knee. (My God, what are those clicks I hear?) "First, it was ballet choreographers – Robbins, Ashton, Balanchine, Tudor – at that time they were very active." (And now all but one are dead.) "Then it was more modern dance choreographers – Taylor, Cunningham, Graham and later Morris. I learnt a lot from them and they gave me confidence that I can still do something on stage. But it was not a sudden switch. It was a transition over 20 years."

Baryshnikov's stage persona has always suited him to the impersonality of much modern dance. Where Nureyev stormed into history through the blaze of his personality, Baryshnikov soared gloriously over the ballet world with the sublime perfection of his dance. Nureyev was always ultimately Nureyev on stage; but Baryshnikov sank himself into the choreography. He was both the public's megastar and the dancer's dancer. His body was the incredibly fine-tuned instrument of his will and imagination, able to achieve a peerless finesse of movement. The subtle contrasts of texture and dynamic, the turns as smooth as thick cream, the clear-cut geometries: these are qualities he can still unleash today when the choreography demands.

In his crowd-pulling ballet heyday, Baryshnikov was the simple answer to anxious impresarios' prayers. Today, impresarios know they could still sell out – without even having to resort to tiresome marketing legwork – if only they were to write Baryshnikov's legwork. In two-metre high letters on the posters. But, frustratingly, White Oak won't let them. This is not ballet, White Oak replies, this is not the star-system



package of ballet; we don't want to mislead. So, in the best modern egalitarian tradition, Baryshnikov is publicised as one of the crowd. Yet if he were injured, they would have to cancel. And if in the group pieces his name is scrupulously listed alphabetically, each programme also usually includes two solo items for him. White Oak both is and isn't a star vehicle.

It is, as one dancer Vernon Scott says, "a democracy with a president". Baryshnikov is open to suggestions, but he makes all the programming and policy decisions. *Primus inter pares*, he has surrounded himself with dancers of the highest calibre, some with their own successful careers behind them. Cannily, he has selected a satisfying range of ages, from 23 to 46, so avoiding the effect either of a Russian sheep among lambs or of a therapy group of dance geriatrics (although the average age is higher than in most companies).

I ask three of the dancers how they joined, and all answer that it was through a sudden phone call from Baryshnikov. "It's like, I'm sitting at home and finishing dinner," remembers Vernon Scott. "I thought it was a joke." How does one qualify for these phoned invitations? "Versatility," says Baryshnikov, "because in our group you always have to alternate styles. We are looking for people who are capable either by experience or by natural ability to change gears." Then he adds: "But that is probably number two requirement. Number one is to fit in the group because we have to travel together." So no homicidal tempers, please.

The dancers need to be adaptable, because White Oak is a rare animal in the culture of modern dance, where companies tend to be choreographer outfits. Although White Oak began by devoting itself exclusively to Mark Morris's work, its repertoire now covers an enormous span of different choreographers, from modern dance classics like José Limón's *Chaconne* and Merce Cunningham's *Septet*, to commissions from young creators such as Craig Patterson from Morris's company. The dancers' diverse sets of experiences encourage a collaborative atmosphere – what someone called trading information.

Linked to this repertorial diversity is an astonishing turnover of pieces, maximum shelf-life being three years. The 1995-6 season has included eight world and two company premieres. Baryshnikov devours pieces like a hungry shark in the search for new challenges, and his latest scheme is to encourage in-house choreography. Vernon Scott is preparing a piece for next season and Ruthlyn Salomons's first attempt will be shown in London. "It keeps the dancers interested and they understand the other side of the coin," are the reasons Baryshnikov gives. Isn't it harsh for the novices – and their audience – to expose them so quickly and uncompromisingly? "You go to a bookstore and there are hundreds of titles. This is the same. You put those pieces next to the masterworks and it may be hard, but that's life."

White Oak's healthy finances make such prodigality possible. The company enjoys total self-sufficiency, relying on its fees and ploughing back the profits. The only sponsorship has been in kind: the philanthropist Howard Gilman provided a studio on his 8,000-acre White Oak Plantation (and thus also the company's name). The company journeys fast and light – 26 people in all – permitting not only a fair degree of cost-effectiveness, but the freedom that arises from not committing themselves too far in advance to a theatre or a specific programme. Because they see themselves as a chamber ensemble of 10 or 11 dancers and musicians, they aim for theatres with around 1,500 seats, so that at 2,300 the Coliseum is larger than their norm.

The past 12 months have been unprecedentedly hectic, with tours in Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. White Oak started as an experiment; nobody thought it would last this long. "But here we are in Spain and going on to Israel and London," says Jamie Bishton. "We had a premiere last night and we have other new works on the burner." White Oak will keep going as long as the factors that make it pleasurable continue: no labour unions to deal with, no fund-raising, no early booking commitments. Above all, it gives Baryshnikov absolute control. And who can blame him for wanting that?

White Oak Dance Project performs at the London Coliseum from Tues to Sat. Booking: 0171-632 8300

court



the Court costume can come in the putting them back together. The manhandling, they know then. Folks, I have a stonking great show at the Edinburgh Fringe this year, and it's not my fault if the audience doesn't get it! The reviews have been scathing, but what do they know? This is what I get for trying to do something different, for trying to knock down a few walls.

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show emotion

hat night worse than ever. I had a... (text continues vertically)



## arts reviews

## THEATRE

Love in a Wood  
New End, Hampstead

Paul Taylor uncovers the contemporary echoes in a comic tale of outdoor sex

If a modern dramatist were to write a play called *Hampstead Heath*, you could be fairly confident that its theme would not be the innocent delights of rambling in the fresh air. The same goes for Restoration works with "St James's Park" in their titles. As is demonstrated by London Classic Theatre Company's intelligent revival of Wycherley's *Love in a Wood*, or *St James's Park*, this resort was a nocturnal cruising area for both sexes. The panelled walls of Michael Cabot's production are thrown open for the erotic games of blind man's bluff – or "midnight courting" – in the disconcertingly frank al fresco episodes that are a highlight of this brutally unsentimental comedy about sexual intrigue and appetite.

"Your reputation!" declares Anna Kirke's nicely pinched and venal matchmaker to the lecherous skinflint, Alderman Gripe (Jeff Bellamy). "Indeed, your worship, 'tis well known there are grave men as your worship, men in office too, that adjourn their cares and businesses to come and unbend themselves at night here, with a little vizard-mask." Where earlier dramatists would have made a distinction of tone between the high and low plots, Wycherley pushes all his personae into the democratising darkness of the park.

Cabot ably manoeuvres a cast of 15 around a complicated plot of mistakings, multiple eavesdroppings, mistrust and mercenary entrapment. Amanda Osborne is very funny as Lady Flippant, the fortune-hunting widow who rails against marriage but bangs around the park at night in the hope of being chased. A contemporary audience has no trouble responding to her, or to the pharisaical Alderman, who is too mean even to pay the market rate for illicit sex before he is caught in flagrante. Modern parallels are drolly insinuated by pop songs and, less subtly, the bawd's cans of lager and Flippant's copy of *Hello!* magazine.

The difficulties begin with the characters we are meant to take more seriously. Valentine (Alexander Giles) is so insufferably mistrustful of his beloved Christina that he does not deserve her forgiveness at the end. And given that the smooth rake, Ranger (Chris Gilling), had been about to rape his mistress, mistaking her for another woman, it is uncomfortable that he is the mouthpiece of the play's final encomium on marriage. It would be idle to claim that this, Wycherley's earliest play, is on the same level of achievement as *The Country Wife*. But Cabot's revival, the first London staging for more than 300 years, proves that its best bits still possess vigorous life.

To 8 Sept. Booking: 0171-794 0022

## DANCE Nederlands Dans Theater, Edinburgh Playhouse

Whether dealing with questions of sexual identity or illusion versus reality, Jiri Kylian's work is distinguished by a uniquely human touch. By John Percival



Where does life end and performance begin? Nederlands Dans Theater's *Bella Figura* has the answer

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

The fluency of Jiri Kylian's choreography, his unexpected twists of movement and concern for human values put him streets ahead of his contemporaries. At his best, he is unbeatable, as in the *Six Dances*, one of the works brought to the Edinburgh Festival this week by his Nederlands Dans Theater.

Set to Mozart's *German Dances*, this is an uproariously funny piece, but much more than that. Its dancers – in white wigs, trailing clouds of powder and 18th-century dishabille – show the links between Mozart's time and our own with swift, concise episodes that mingle rivalry, lust, aggression and alarm.

Kylian pulls off something comparable, but with modern music, in *Falling Angels*, where Steve Reich's *Drumming Part I* (fiercely played by Circle Percussion) drives a cast of eight women through constantly changing geometric patterns in every direction of the stage. Each woman emerges briefly as a solo figure, suggesting the individuality as well as the solidarity and strength of her sex.

Placing that piece back to back with no pause against the all-male *Sarabande* renders the latter's send-up of macho posturing and smug confidence all the more devastating. But I wonder why its music, from a Bach *Pavane*, had to be so unrecognisably electronically "processed" (by Dick Heuff) into an unbearable cacophony of harsh growls, screams and mocking shouts.

For a man whose choreographic response to music is excep-

tionally subtle and deep-probing, Kylian can be disconcertingly cavalier in assembling his scores. He treats Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms* as a consistent whole for a modern ritual (which oeds, I think, to be more tightly danced than it was in Edinburgh), but for two big recent works given, one on each of his festival programmes, he has constructed collages from discrepant sources.

In both these works, Kylian is exploring ideas about life and our attitude to it. *Bella Figura* (which runs musically from Pergolesi to Lukas Foss) is probably the easier to follow, raising questions of what we see and what people do, as the dancers are by turns revealed and masked by moving curtains, asking where performance begins and how it differs from the rest of life.

The theme of *Whereabouts Unknown* is of past and present, or rather, past in present, as references to Aboriginal art and African masks colour the dancing patterns. The highlight of his work is not so much the groups storming and swirling around the stage, thrilling as these are, but the quiet, puzzled, exploratory final duo to Charles Ives's *The Unanswered Question*.

Kylian's 21 years as NDT's artistic director have built a unique and dedicated company of dancers, even if (like Balanchine before him) his attempts to find new choreographers from among them are often less rewarding. Will London follow Edinburgh and catch up with them before Kylian's silver jubilee in four years' time?

## OPERA

Un Ballo in Maschera  
Holland Park, London

An al fresco masked ball with prize-winning singers. By Nick Kimberley

The Holland Park American Express Prize is given, not for singing a selection of arias and lieder, but for a performance to a complete opera. Many might hope that it would promote some unseemingly upstaging; but it's more of a Man/Woman of the Match Award, a tribute to selfless endeavour on behalf of the team.

In this, the first year of the prize, winners were selected from performances given by Opera Holland Park, making its debut during the Holland Park opera season. In asking Anthony Besch to direct Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Opera Holland Park placed itself in safe hands: too safe, perhaps. Besch was never going to give us *Ballo* as eerie psychodrama, but here it became a drama of firmly struck poses and fiddly business pedantically timed to coincide with the music.

Perhaps Besch found the theatre difficult. Holland Park is an open-air venue, the stage a set of boards in front of a grand building of indeterminate age, from which singers emerge through handsome doors and elegant arches. In the battle against low-flying planes and splashing fountains, singers receive support from discreet amplification. This has the effect of flattening the sound field, as if every singer is equidistant from every listener, but it allows subtleties that might otherwise get lost on the breeze, and also compensates for moments of weightlessness in the reduced orchestra, ably conducted by David Gibson.

Principal roles went to different singers on alternate nights, and the cast I saw benefited from several strong contributions. Christine Bunning, looking like a young Josephine Barrow, showed pure tone and shapely phrasing as Amelia, while Theresa Goble's Madame Arvidson had the requisite ground-shaking chest register. On this occasion, though, it was the men who dominated: Bruce Rankin rarely looked comfortable as the King, Gustavus, but the voice rang out clearly, an elegant foil for Gerard Quinn's Anckarström, sinister, dark and threatening. It was no surprise that Quinn was the male winner of the aforementioned prize (the alternative Amelia, Jacqueline Eyll, won the women's event): he filled the evening air with the meosce that the opera demands.

This *Ballo* was sung in Italian, with no surtitles. It was depressing to see so many people reading the synopsis during the performance. The generalised moves of Besch's production revealed little, so there wasn't much alternative. Except to sing it in English.

Last performances: Sat 17, 2.30 & 7.30pm (box office: 0171-602 7856)

## TELEVISION A Very Important Pennis (BBC2) The long-term appeal of the BBC's celebrity stalker may not be as big as some of his victims' egos. By Jasper Rees

In *A Very Important Pennis*, the carrot-topped geek who accosts celebs with scaldingly rude questions was released on Hollywood. And Hollywood, where celebrity is oxt to godliness, hadn't a clue what to make of him. Time after time, the stars would be seduced, like moths to the flame, into the alluring glare of the camera light, only to get their wings singed to a crisp.

Poor Charlie Sheen, advised that he is "the most polished performer... a shining example," was struck dumb by the tribute. "I'm not sure how to take that," he said when trapped again later with a gag about Vietnam vets having to

look after animals in the jungle. "On the chin," advised Dennis Pennis.

The dice were loaded against even the less dull-witted. Although Pennis the character is American (with an accent that slips under stress), his script team are English, and they unfairly pepper his interrogations with slangy Anglicisms. Jim Carrey had not previously come across someone called Jimmy Riddle. Michael Douglas was once too sure what Pennis meant by his "tackle". The erstwhile alcoholic Drew Barrymore, of course, had never heard of her English namesake Michael, who also enjoys the occasional stiff one.

The obstacle facing Pennis's act is the law of diminishing returns. There are only so many times you can fire off questions to Cindy Crawford about strange pets before your name gets around town. Cindy's rictus froze, while Demi Moore was similarly stunned when asked whether, if it were tastefully done, she'd ever consider doing a movie with her clothes on. Bull's-eye.

A mock report from a Hollywood gossip show warned of Pennis's "anti-celebrity activity". The item may actually have been a mere spoof, but, next time, the PRs of Tinseltown will see him coming and get out their blackballs.

Courney Love had definitely heard of "this obnoxious guy from England". At the opening of Planet Hollywood, where he skewered most of his victims, he beckoned David Hasselhoff over and asked, "There's a lot of complicated text in *Baywatch*: is it important that the actresses have good mammaries?" A reporter on the patch next to Pennis promptly leaned into shot and told him he was screwing it up for everyone else.

And there could be something in that – the next time the BBC requests a formal interview with, say, Warren Beatty ("Warren, you're not seen in public very often: is it fair to say Beatty

is privatised?"), he may dimly recall the corporation logo wrapped round Pennis's microphone and politely decline. Certainly, a wounded Steve Martin exclaimed Britain from a promotional tour after a brutal Pennising.

When he's not performing the valuable public service of insulting celebrities, Pennis tends to lose his way. In one item used to pad the show out to half an hour, he frothed an ad for a fraudulent exercise accessory. In another, he played a vulpine lawyer of the kind he may one day ood himself. The real moth, you suspect, is Pennis himself, sentenced to a short life of frenetic nocturnal activity.

## THE SUNDAY REVIEW



For young blacks in South Central Los Angeles, life is usually nasty, brutish and short. Ennis Beley was lucky: aged 12, he achieved celebrity as a video diarist, then as a photographer. Admirers gave him an education, contacts, hope... And then, in June, he was killed. Matthew Heller tells the story of a hope that failed

Plus: Helen Fielding has a bad experience with a pizza

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

THE SUNDAY REVIEW

David Benedict

Overview

KEY

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- OK
- POOR
- DEADLY

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Operatic

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# Whiskery symbol of a High Bohemian tradition

George Cruikshank's influence on Dickens and Thackeray has been hugely underestimated, says D J Taylor

George Cruikshank's Life, Times and Art Volume 2: 1835-1878 by Robert L Patten, Lutterworth Press, £45

It takes a career like that of George Cruikshank (1792-1878) to remind us just how long the Victorian age extended, and of the myriad phases into which its artistic life divided up. "Phiz" (Häblot K Browne) may have achieved instant celebrity with his illustrations to Dickens, Tenniel may have landed the knighthood; but Cruikshank's is the great brooding presence that hangs over 19th-century periodical illustration. "Boz" was the Cruikshank of literature, the *Spectator* thought, appraising Dickens's early sketches, and in some ways this is less a compliment to the author than an acknowledgment of the whole tradition in which the majority of early Victorian writers did their best work.

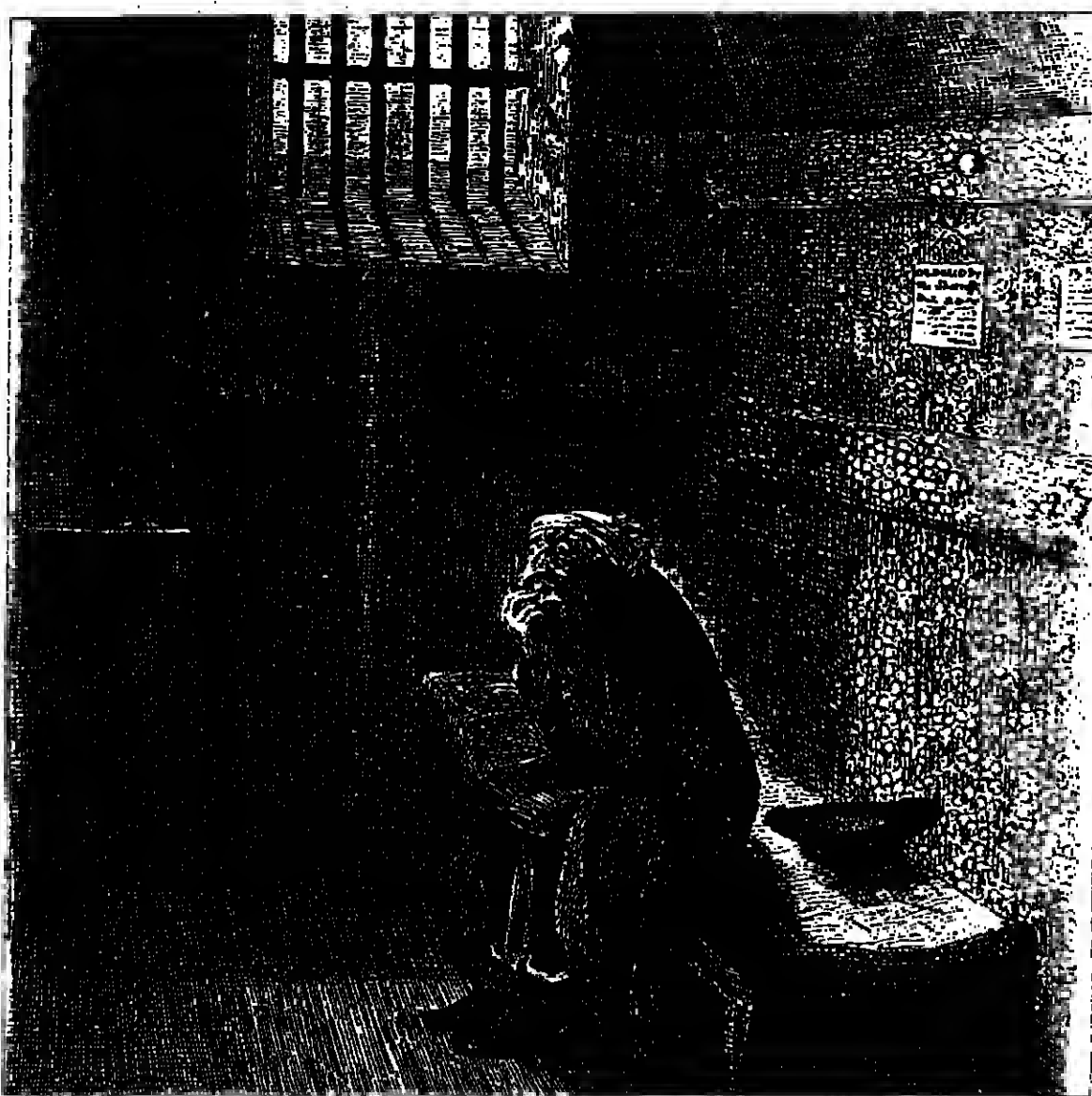
One doesn't need to have more than glanced through a novel such as *Dombey and Son* (illustrated by Browne) to realise the importance of engravings, either done in steel or wood-blocked, for the average early Victorian text. Dickens's correspondence with his illustrators gives an idea of the significance early Victorian practitioners attached to the portrayal of particular scenes and symbols. Thackeray's own illustrations to *Vanity Fair* are full of complex metaphorical games, endlessly refining on the letterpress or providing fresh insights into character and motivation. Realism started to invade Victorian magazines in mid-century – the illustrations to Trollope's later works tend to be of identical exquisites of both sexes – but until at least the early 1860s this kind of perfunctoriness was kept at bay, and at their best early Victorian novels are a genuine collaboration between author and artist.

The notion of writer and illustrator working in harness was pre-Victorian, of course: one of the abiding themes of Cruikshank's pious biographer is the difficulty his subject found in acclimatising himself to the new mid-century world. Already, in his forties, when Victoria came to the throne, Cruikshank could look back on a career that had begun as long ago as 1805; one of his finest moments had been the racy illustrations to Pierce Egan's *Life in London*, published in 1821.

Attitude, as much as age, marked Cruikshank out from his younger contemporaries. His early work, much of it commissioned by the satirist William Hone, had a sharp, political edge that he was to spend much of his later career trying to repudiate, and beneath the portraiture lay the bristling figure of the man himself – hot-tempered, Bohemian and famous for turning up the worse for drink.

If Cruikshank sometimes seems like a survivor of the lost world of the regency, a venerable throwback to the age of Vauxhall Gardens and Miss Decamp's dance, then to a certain extent these characteristics worked in his favour. Thackeray – to take only one young acolyte – had been deeply impressed as a boy by *Life in London*; Dickens, too, was a fan. By developing connections with the latter's publisher, Bentley, Cruikshank was able to exploit the Dickens-derived boom in early Victorian serial fiction, following up his work on *Sketches by Boz* with some stark illustrations to *Oliver Twist*. WH Ainsworth, the author of *Jack Sheppard* (1839), was another patron, and in *The Tower of London* (1840), a Victorian bestseller, Cruikshank showed what he could do when given his head: no fewer than 40 full-page steel engravings, as well as a host of incidental woodcuts.

Inevitably there were occupational hazards. In particular, as Patten demonstrates, Cruikshank got caught up in the "Newgate" row of the early 1840s, when the growing



'Fagin in the condemned cell': George Cruikshank's illustrations for 'Oliver Twist' (1837) were part of a long collaboration with Dickens

volume of low-life and delinquency novels, Ainsworth's highwaymen and Dickens's street gangs, led to a public backlash. There are interesting parallels with the current agitation over a film such as *Natural Born Killers* – at one point vendors were supposed to be selling "Shepherdbags" containing bousebreaking tools, and the murderer Courvoisier was alleged to have got the idea from seeing a theatrical adaptation of Ainsworth's novel – but public opinion tended to follow Thackeray's rebuke: "Gentlemen and men of genius may amuse themselves with such rascals, but not live with them altogether. The public taste, to be sure, lies that way, but these men should teach the public." The

low-life novel died, and was not really revived – in a rather different form – until the end of the century.

It would be wrong to ascribe Cruikshank's subsequent decline to these abrupt transformations in public taste. Much more of it was to do with an inability to look out for himself in an increasingly complex marketplace, where personal connection was all and authorial touchiness (Dickens's in particular) had to be conciliated at all costs. The list of judgemental errors which Patten attributes to him in the 1840s makes melancholy reading: the estrangement from Ainsworth halfway through publication of *St James's*; or *The Court of Queen Anne* (he was replaced by Phiz;

symbolically enough), the falling out with Bentley, the refusal to have anything to do with the vastly successful *Punch*. After he lost both voice and audience, his uneasiness over the difficulties of reinventing himself to meet the demands of a new middle-class public are all too obvious. His old friend Hone, he told readers of his short-lived vehicle, *The Omnibus*, was "the most notorious infidel of his day"; he himself was a liberal only in the sense of "becoming a gentleman, generous not mean". This loss of nerve quickly transferred itself to his art, which hovered between a sympathy with Victorian conservatism and a harking back to the radical days of his youth.

Drink ("He here always sticks in my throat" he is supposed to have remarked, of his ignorance of Latin, "hui the hoc goes down") and temper did the rest. From the mid-1840s he went in for temperance, contributing a lucrative series of plates to *The Bottle*, but his great days were gone and he knew it. In old age he was reduced to issuing pamphlets claiming that many of Dickens's and Ainsworth's ideas had been his own, and he had to suffer the embarrassment of having his designs for the Bruce statue in Stirling turned down by the judging committee.

In fact, as Patten convincingly shows, one or two of Cruikshank's claims about his influence on *Oliver Twist* merit some kind of consideration (Dickens certainly discussed chapters with him in advance) and Ainsworth, a markedly inferior writer, seems to have composed large parts of *The Tower of London* to an illustrative plan devised by his artist. Cruikshank's influence was incalculable. Patten, for instance, thinks that Thackeray, who collaborated with his mentor in the 1830s, may have picked up the idea for *Vanity Fair* from a design for a new edition of *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

*George Cruikshank's Life, Times and Art* is a phenomenally good book – detailed but never dull, learned, thorough and entertainingly written. If the Cruikshank who wanders through it occasionally seems a rather sketchy figure, this is only because of the dearth of extant material about his personal life – his consumptive first wife, Mary Anne, for example, is simply an absence. Many of the best glimpses of him come from Dickens (they eventually quarrelled over temperance), including a comic portrait from William Hone's funeral: "George has enormous whiskers which struggle all down his throat ... and stick out in front of him, like a partially unravelled bird's nest." When a Methodist minister complained about an obituary of Hone, which he believed to have been written by Cruikshank, "George (upon his knees, and sobbing for the loss of an old friend) whispered to me 'that if it wasn't a clergyman, and it wasn't a funeral, he'd have punched his head'."

Patten is suspicious of this, thinking it written for patronising comic effect, but the tone is reinforced by a much more matter-of-fact account of an evening spent by author and illustrator: "George Cruikshank got rather drunk here, last Friday night, and declined to go away until four in the morning, when he went – I don't know where, but certainly not home." If nothing else, Cruikshank is a symbol of the High Bohemian tradition on which so much early Victorian art was built, and also of the difficulties of moving beyond that base. Thackeray, a younger man by 20 years, would eventually adapt himself to the sensibilities of his audience. For Cruikshank, despite the affection in which the late-Victorian public held his name, there was only cold water and self-serving letters to the *Times*.

## Abandoning words for the battlefields of the Somme

Carole Angier finds an account of Edith Wharton's war work takes biographical detail a step too far

In her mid-fifties, Edith Wharton, the pampered, patrician novelist, abandoned her writing career to spend nearly four years travelling out to the battlefields of the First World War. There she drove herself nearly to physical breakdown with the sad and heavy burden of trying to care for jobless women, orphaned children and tubercular soldiers.

It was admirable work but, in biographical terms, it makes for extremely tedious copy. And as Professor Price tells it in this brief book, it is staggeringly boring.

Price piles on the detail, mostly about money and squabbles (alas,

charity is mostly about money and squabbles), hardly pausing to consider what it all means. And when he does pause to consider, you wish he hadn't; the results are of such eye-stretching obviousness. What effect did Wharton's dedication to war work have on her fiction? It limited her output! (She herself said it left her "pent-tied".) Why did this sophisticated social satirist descend to sentimental fiction and propaganda pieces? To save the lives of her orphans and refugees!

If ever Price makes a point with some content, it immediately appears to be wrong. For exam-

**The End of the Age of Innocence: Edith Wharton and the First World War**  
by Alan Price, Hale, £17.99

ple: the effects of the war "would be with Edith Wharton for the rest of her life", he intones; he then describes how she went straight back to her writing, and wrote about many of the same unwholesome things (e.g. incest) she always had done. And if ever he

makes a point once, he makes it several times: in the preface, in each chapter, and in the summary at the end of each chapter (well, of most chapters).

"The End of the Age of Innocence" is not only his title, it is also the last line of his preface and the last line of his book. But at least "The First World War" ushered in the true end of the age of innocence" is not obviously meaningless. Unlike his other main point – made in the preface, chapter one, and the conclusion: "For a novelist who made fictional worlds and for a woman who created aesthetic spaces (her

houses and their gardens), the loss of control [represented by the war] was traumatic." More traumatic than for people who didn't create aesthetic spaces?

I suppose I did learn one or two interesting things. That the American Army was 17th in size in the world, for instance, when it entered the First World War; or that when several hundred American writers and editors were pooled in 1914, the vast majority favoured neutrality. By contrast the reactions of Wharton herself, and of her friend Henry James, put us all to shame. She did the work described here. He said

"The war has used up words." If only it had.

There have already been five Lives of Edith Wharton, including two big ones only two years ago. You would not think there was much left to say – and you would be right. Price (Associate Professor of English and American Studies, Penn State) has found a career-publishing niche in Wharton's First World War charity work, and has already overfilled it in the academic journals. That's fine; it's what they're there for. But it does not seem to have occurred to him (or to Hale) that this space may have been left because it

wasn't worth occupying. With touching naivety he thanks Wharton's last two biographers for sharing materials with him. I am sure Shari Benstock and Eleanor Dwight are nice and generous people. But I do not think it cost them very much to share this particular material with Price.

It is said, because it was brave of Robert Hale to publish a minority interest literary book, and to publish it so handsomely, on better paper and in better print than most big, greedy publishers spare for their bestsellers. But Hale's judgement, unfortunately, was not equal to its courage.

## Operatic visions in a conspiratorial world

Academics still tie themselves in knots over the Wagnerian phenomenon. Never mind the theories, what about the music says Dermot Clinch

"I fear Wagnerians. They are capable of ruining my enjoyment of even the best of Wagner." Brahms had been quick to identify the perennial Wagner problem. Wagner, more than a mere composer or a mere dramatist, was a phenomenon. His dramas were the vehicle of a philosophy, his art was the focus of theories – his own and others – like no art before. Like Freud in Auden's poem, "In Memory of Sigmund Freud", like Jesus Christ to whom he is compared in this book on more than one occasion, Wagner created a "climate of opinion". There are Freudians and Christians. And there are Wagnerians.

Where there are believers, there will often be dissenters, and it is these who weigh on the mind of Michael Tanner, Cambridge philosophy don and new opera critic of the *Spectator*. "Why are people not grateful," he wails towards the end of his book, "for what he has given them?" But even this, the last of many such complaints, is forced. The days this, the last of many such complaints, is forced. The days of deep Wagner controversy are long gone. In place of idolisation and demonisation, the pro and contra debates that animated the arts last century, in place even of the taint of association with Hitler, the worst that Wagner's operas encounter these days is a bit of temperamental incompatibility. No one doubts that Wagner's place among the "most significant composers" is now secure. Even the question of anti-Semitism in the operas has an academic air, and hardly affects the listening public.

Wagnerians have always thrived, however, on the vision of a world locked in conspiracy against the great man.

**Wagner**  
by Michael Tanner  
HarperCollins, £16.99

Michael Tanner's book is an old-fashioned apology, and none the worse for it. Priding himself on his good old common sense – he once thought of founding a magazine called *Rigour, Incorporating Standards and Values*, so he claims – Tanner asks the questions any worthwhile sceptic will want answered. Do we have to accept Wagner's high-flown intellectual stuff in order to regard the operas as "more than bizarre actions set to frequently wonderful music"? Do we need to believe what Tristan and Isolde sing, simply because the music sounds nice? Those superhuman folk in Wagner's operas – giants, dwarfs, axe-wielding heroes – do they serve a "useful as opposed to a thrilling ... purpose?"

Clearly put they may be. But once put, the questions bang tantalisingly unanswered, or merely obscured. Tanner may be a student of philosophy, a man of wide reading and vigorous opinions, but he has an impenetrable way with words. Should we believe what Tristan and Isolde sing? "The only answer ... is that the experience of love at its most intense becomes an intuition that its fulfilment can only be found in a renunciation of the self, undertaken all the more willingly because the



Wagner: a devilish bid for a soul

tortures of being a self are so intolerable." And we thought Wagner was a composer! Here, once more, with a vengeance, is the old Wagner-as-sage routine, the very one that has been putting newcomers off the great composer for the last hundred and more years. In Tanner's thorough run-through of

Wagner's career each opera is treated, not as a work of music, but as a more or less efficient illustration of one man's developing thought. Chapter seven: "Wagner Ponders"; Chapter eight: "What is *The Ring* About?"; Chapter twelve: "Art, Tradition and Authority". Tanner's book is addressed to those with "some, not necessarily very much, acquaintance" with the operas, but it looks desperately optimistic.

The *Tristan* chapter, in particular, is impressive, developing an earlier argument of the author that the opera is "one of the two greatest religious works of our culture". But much of the work is hard going. Why take Wagner's word for it, I have always wondered, that he was a short philosopher, social scientist, anthropologist? Surely Wagner is the classic case of an artist whose work requires criticism and probing, rather than respectful exegesis. Tanner, however, finds systems of thought where others might find casual insights and *aperçus*. Act II of *Tristan and Isolde* is not merely of psychological interest, it is a "demonstration" of the underlying notions of psychology. *The Ring* is no mere artistic creation, it is a "great commentary" on human society and its possibilities.

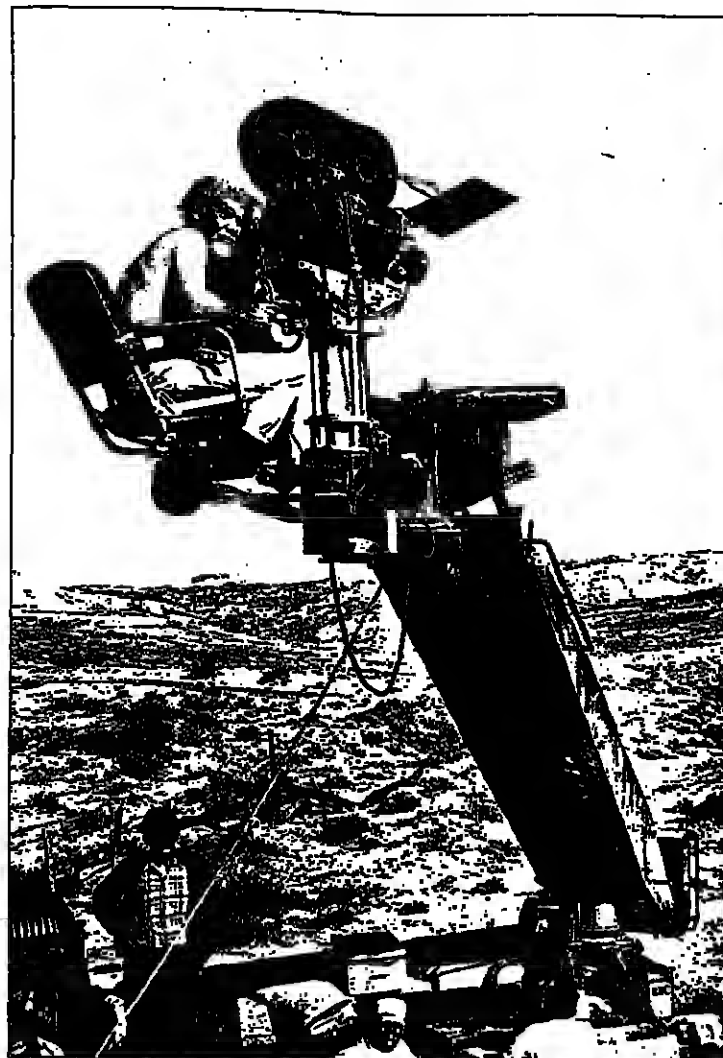
And the music? Those who doubt Wagner most, Tanner writes, are those who feel him "making a devilish bid for their souls". No doubt he is right, though he is surely wrong to identify that bid as primarily intellectual. Wagner's art appeals to the gut before the reason, and it is the music that does it. Shunning musical technicalities, as Tanner does, is fair enough. But to find no alternative method of talking about the music, and so to dismiss it almost altogether, is a grave dereliction.



## books

# A matter of life and death in the film industry

Faber's new series of movie biographies is launched this month. Frank McLynn goes for the wrap



All dolled up: Sam Peckinpah (left), maker of hyper-violent, celluloid bloodbaths, on the set of 'The Wild Bunch' (1969); William Holden (centre) and Ernest Borgnine (right)



Movie biographies have come of age only in the present generation. Thirty years ago books written about the stars and directors of the silver screen were overwhelmingly scissor-and-paste jobs, where the principal source was the cuttings file. Nowadays film scholarship tends to be meticulously annotated and each interview scrupulously dated. The result has been some very fine books: *Learning on Welles*, *Spoto on Hitchcock*, *Manso on Brando*, *Lewis on Sellers*, to name a handful. This tradition is maintained in the half-dozen volumes with which Faber launches its series of movie biographies (all £12.99 paperback).

Kevin MacDonald's *Emmerich Pressburger: The Life and Death of a Screenwriter* (467pp) is a labour of love, as Pressburger was his grandfather. In partnership with Michael Powell as "The Archers", Pressburger wrote some of the finest movies in British film history: *The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp*, *A Matter of Life and Death*, *Black Narcissus*. Although he died at 86, his career was essentially

finished at 50. While Michael Powell enjoyed a revival and was taken up by Hollywood luminaries like Coppola and Scorsese, Pressburger was the forgotten man. The old joke says that if you have a Hungarian for a friend you don't need enemies, but this particular Hungarian refugee from the Nazis was really the one let down by his friend. Having over the years patched up many quarrels caused by the mercurial and difficult Powell, he was taken under the umbrella when Powell's career got a new lease of life.

Although it should be taken with a pinch of salt, Don Siegel's *A Siegel Film* (500pp) is the most entertaining of the six. Siegel was a highly talented director of action movies (*Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *Charley Varrick*, *The Shootist*) and did much to further the career of Clint Eastwood who figures prominently in these pages. Much of Siegel's book is taken up with a kind of "Thucydidean" dialogue with movie greats, allegedly a faithful transcript of the conversations. Now, either we have to accept that Siegel was an early Tony Benn, in that he tape-recorded everything, or we must believe that all

this is in the spirit of *l'escalier*. Since Siegel is consistently witty and wise and invariably gets the better of all his interlocutors, the conclusion is obvious.

Joseph Losey fled his native US and the anti-communist witchhunts to make a new career in Britain in 1952. He was one of the legion whose fame was a Sixties phenomenon, being particularly associated with Dirk Bogarde (*The Servant*, *Accident*) and with Burton and Taylor. But what really established his reputation was the pacan from the influential *Cahiers du Cinéma* where one critic straight-facedly compared him to Valéry, Nietzsche, Hegel, Bach and Stendahl. According to David Coute in *Joseph Losey: A Revealing Life* (591pp), Losey was a deeply unpleasant man, an apologist for Stalin who tried to avoid conscription in the Second World War and ducked a real confrontation with the McCarthyites. Certainly he got on the wrong side of J Edgar Hoover, and the lengthy FBI file is an important source for this book.

Another director to joust with the paladins of the House Un-American Activities Committee was Nicholas

Ray, like Losey a darling of *Cahiers du Cinéma*. Bernard Eisenschitz was a member of the board on that magazine, and the main fault of his *Nicholas Ray: An American Journey* (599pp) is that he concentrates overly on the film oeuvre so that there is too little about Ray's private life. Ray was divorced after a brief marriage to Gloria Graham, who promptly married Ray's eldest son. This should make sensational copy, but Eisenschitz mentions it and then hurries on to more film criticism. Given that many of Ray's movies (*Rebel without a Cause*, *Run for Cover*) centre on father-son conflict, this seems an odd way to write a biography.

The problem with Joseph McBride's *Frank Capra: The Catastrophe of Success* (763pp) is that the author does not like his subject. It is of course permissible for a biographer to "take against" his hero while writing the life, but McBride shows no real understanding of Capra the artist, and should have cried off the project on those grounds. In this book Capra is always wrong: he failed the challenge of the blacklist, and the real credit for his best films should go to the screenwriter Robert Riskin,

Pressburger to Capra's Powell. Even in the dispute with Columbia's notorious studio head Harry Cohn, where Capra was undoubtedly in the right, McBride manages to suggest that Capra overreacted and behaved self-destructively.

The opposite problem arises with David Weddle's *Sam Peckinpah: 'If They Move...Kill 'Em'*. This is a further devotional offering to the cult of Peckinpah, misogynist, racist (see his treatment of Mexicans) and maker of hyper-violent celluloid bloodbaths. Of course for the Peckinpah cultists, the man is a genius, but there is not much one can do about cults. Weddle seems unable to grasp the point that it is permissible to make one film about hyper-violence (as Kubrick did with *A Clockwork Orange* and later recanted) but not to base a career on it. I wonder if anyone has ever produced such a string of prize turkeys as Peckinpah (*Straw Dogs*, *Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia*, *Convoy*, *The Killer Elite*, *Cross of Iron*, *The Osterman Weekend*).

Faber's new venture is a treat for cinephiles, but tighter quality control in the product is recommended for the future.

All you need to know about the books you meant to read

by Gavin Griffiths



## THE LEOPARD (1958) by Giuseppe di Lampedusa

Lampedusa, a Sicilian nobleman, wrote his only novel to assuage melancholy. It was assembled and published posthumously.

**Plot:** Prince Fabrizio is the leopard, a self-absorbed aristocrat. In middle-age, facing the threat of Garibaldi and the Italian unification movement, he feels lapped in loneliness and treats his relatives with quiet disdain. The exception is Tancredi, his nephew. As the Bourbon king is deposed, Fabrizio knows that the old life is doomed. He encourages Tancredi to marry Angelica Sedara, daughter of a rich peasant. Concetta, Fabrizio's daughter, is mortified, for she loves Tancredi with ferocious pride. Marriage arrangements are completed and to celebrate the betrothal, there is a ball. As the Prince dances with Angelica, there are intimations of mortality. Twenty years later he has a stroke and dies in an hotel. Another 30 years pass. Concetta, a spinster, guards the palace. Angelica arrives and Concetta wonders whether she might have married Tancredi after all. Tancredi has been buried some time; Concetta knows that the truth is buried with him.

**Theme:** Fabrizio watches "the ruin of his own class without ever making any move towards saving it." His decadence is a reflection of Sicily's. The illusions of political improvement are pitched against the certainty that happiness is transitory.

**Style:** Combining Count Tolstoy's bemused bauteur with Proust's sense of universal loss, the prose is archaic, aloof and voluptuous.

**Chief strengths:** Fabrizio's quietism is subjected to irony. Lampedusa's belief that the modern world is trite and fussy parallels his exposure of the Prince as cruel and unthinking.

**Chief weaknesses:** The story is so episodic that the characters have little room for development.

**What they thought of it then:** Initially turned down for publication, the book subsequently enjoyed worldwide success.

**What we think of it now:** Falls into the minor classic bracket along with *Le Grand Meaulnes*, *Catcher in the Rye* and *The Good Soldier*.

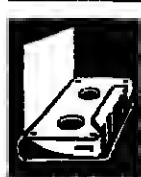
**Responsible for:** Visconti's film (1963) which is a *tour de force* despite bizarre dubbing and the imaginative decision to cast Burt Lancaster as the Prince.



## Who's reading whom

Molly Parkin finds harmony of mind in the writings of Ralph Waldo Emerson

I admire Emerson for his mystical idealism which has had such a profound impact on American thought and culture. Richard Geldard's *The Vision of Emerson* (Element) does full justice to his concept of the infinite of the individual: that every person and every thing is an integral part of the universe. The universe has at its heart an essential balance which the acts of men can affect, but are ultimately affected by. Alice Bailey's *The Soul* (Lucas) subtitled "The Quality of Life", examines the issue from the Tibetan perspective.



## Audiobooks

*The Horse Whisperer*  
read by William Dufres  
In Patagonia  
read by James Wilby

The combination of pacey action, skilful cross-cutting and contemplative asides makes Nicholas Evans's highly-praised first novel *The Horse Whisperer* (Chivers, unabridged, 12hrs 40 mins, £16.95) perfectly suited to being heard rather than read. Delivered with well-sustained sympathy by New Englander William Dufres, it is absolutely gripping. James Wilby does full justice to Bruce Chatwin's extraordinary quest voyage in *Patagonia* (Reed Audio, 3hrs, £7.99), bringing its diverse characters vividly to life in accents that range effortlessly from whisky-sodden old pat to demagogically-inventive new Pat. It's an irresistible taster for the whole book.

Christina Hardyment

## Trouble under the lilac tree

Kate Atkinson is bewitched by a tale of two sisters

A long time ago Maria Owens came to Massachusetts with her baby daughter, and a packet of diamonds sewn into the hem of her dress and not much more. Since then every Owens woman has displayed her inheritance from Maria—a pair of grey eyes and a feeling for the extraordinary that lies just beneath the surface of the ordinary.

The otherworld that always inhabits the fringes of Alice Hoffman's books—the ghosts, the supernatural powers—is allowed a place centre stage in this book. For here are the aunts who can do real magic, who can cast a spell or make up love potions for the women who come to their back door at twilight, because the aunts, who smell "like lavender and sulphur", can "read desperation a mile away" and are not above sticking pins in the hearts of doves to give some foolish woman what she thinks she wants.

The aunts wear long black skirts and laced leather boots and they're so old "it's impossible to tell their age," but once long ago they were so beautiful that boys killed themselves for love. The aunts bring up orphan sisters, Gillian and Sally, after their parents die. The aunts' ideas on child-rearing are unconventional—"Sally and Gillian were never told to go to bed before midnight or reminded to brush their teeth". But people are afraid of the Owens, they cross their fingers or cross the street in case they get hexed.

Gillian and Sally, "night and day", grow up as different as only sisters can. Sally "as conscientious as Gillian is idle". Gillian runs away and marries several times, preferring the hot dry atmos-

**Practical Magic**  
by Alice Hoffman  
Macmillan, £15.99

phere of the desert to the fertile fecundity of Massachusetts, spending her whole life "trying to be as self-sufficient as a stone". Sally becomes a wife, becomes a mother—to another set of Owens sisters. Antonia and Kylie becomes a widow and decides to leave for somewhere where there's no horse's skull nailed to the fence to warn children away and "where no one pointed when her daughters walked down the street". And for years Sally achieves the normal life she craved, but she should know better: you can leave but you can't let go and you can't take the magic out of an Owens woman.

Then Sally turns up suddenly one night. She's brought her latest beau, Jimmy. He's sitting outside in the Oldsmobile as docile as a lamb for once, "Tall, dark, handsome and dead". The men in *Practical Magic* are handsome and good or handsome and bad. Jimmy, with his snakeskin boots and silver ring is "by far the best-looking guy Sally has ever seen, dead or alive" and Jimmy is very, very bad.

They bury Jimmy under the lilac trees at the bottom of the garden, but he won't rest. He keeps on bringing "bad fortune" and hangs around malevolently. The bad magic under the lilacs is a catalyst for change in this long hot summer of "humidity and greenery". Sally finds logic isn't enough and stops denying her emotions. Gillian stops running.

As ever, Hoffman draws a mean adolescent, and Kylie and Antonia are no exception. "Thirteen is a dangerous age. It's the time when a girl can snap, when good can turn to bad for no apparent reason, and you can lose your own child if you're not careful." Sally's girls grow, losing their outer magic, finding their inner magic. Gillian discovers something that every Owens woman before her has probably known, that "there is a progression and a sequence of possibilities when dealing with who a human can and will be."

Like the flashes of lightning that dart through the hot summers of this book, "trouble is just like love—it comes in unannounced and takes over before you've had a chance to reconsider, or even to think". Love is the redemptive force, of course. For Gillian there's Ben, a biology teacher and an amateur magician. For Sally there will be Gary Hallet who wears cowboy boots "coated with dust and is lean and tall like a scarecrow". Unfortunately he's also an investigator with the attorney general's office and is looking for Jimmy.

In the end, the aunts come up trumps, hot-footing it to Sally's house to deal with the "problem" under the lilac. The aunts aren't stupid, they've watched Oprah, they can deal with anything.

Hoffman isn't just Tyler-plus-magic realism, she's a great atmospheric storyteller. Her books are full of women who keep on making lasagne and tuna-fish casserole while around them life dissolves into chaos before it rises up and reforms into a new logic. Her books are a real pleasure—practical magic.

## Bare-faced cheek

Patricia Craig reads a boys' own story of souped-up shenanigans

This is a very Irish novel: it's obsessive, inflated, clichéd, and keeps its women on the sidelines. Narrated by Junior Rash (Junior? What kind of an Irish name is Junior?), it is all about male competitiveness and camaraderie, full of coded repartee and abundant in minor characters with monikers like Budge and Butch and Batsy and Kerr the Cop. It's a bit self-reflexive too. The narrator is a comic novelist based in Kensal Rise, author of such works as *Hand Me Down* and *The Second-hand Wardrobe* (Michael Curtin has written *The Self-made Man* and *The Plastic Tomato Cutter*) though he spends a lot of time back in the west of Ireland carrying on with his old swimming makes: the Cove Shivering Club.

To join this virile body (men only, of course) you need to swim "bollock-naked" back and forth across the bay on a Good Friday, when the water is best described as "fresh". This feat is duly performed by Junior and his friend Dunstan Tucker, both aged ten, in 1955—and a subsequent childhood disappointment, the failure of his father to raise the money for a week at the Seaside, warps Dunstan and leaves him with a mission in life: to get the better of banks. Dunstan's demeaned and convoluted financial dealings, and a Shivering Club presidential election, form the substance of Michael Curtin's plot.

The novel comes with an accolade from Roddy Doyle ("sparkling and hilarious"), and indeed it has something of Doyle's own gusto and demotic charm, laid on thick. However, it is likely that only those whose

**The Cove Shivering Club**  
Michael Curtin  
Fourth Estate, £8.99



Curtin: knockabout loquacity

taste runs to masculine know- ingness, endearing pugnacity or souped-up shenanigans, will get the most out of it. For the rest of us, I suspect, an element of tiresomeness may obstruct the fullest appreciation of its attitudes and antics. For example, the central financial *idée fixe* and its workings-out become increasingly over-elaborate.

And what are we to make of Junior's one-time schoolmaster, a Brother Chunkey, who first of all confesses to having had the hand of a cleaning woman on his soutane, and then goes on to clobber a pub singer in nun's garb calling herself Baptista and the Virgins? Perhaps the point is that there are no virgins in this act, just as the ex-Christian Brother himself embodies certain social upheavals in Irish life over the last 40-odd years—though what hasn't changed, it

seems, is Irishmen's inability to embrace egalitarianism readily. Sexual appraisal, for example, still gets itself expressed in atrocious colloquialisms—"a terrific pair of diddles...would put a stalk on a dead Dominican".

The thing is to be as racy and incorrigible as possible. With *The Cove Shivering Club*, it's true, the narrator's ironic distance—all those "kids trying to be men and men hanging on to childhood", as he describes himself and his Swimming Club associates—helps to temper the endless knockabout loquacity, which threatens to become overwhelming, what with London- Irish, pub frequenters and naïve barmen's palaver. And there are moments when salutary fun is poked at such importations from the modern world as the Social Services Centre. What is overwhelming, though, is the orgy of cordiality which brings things to a close, with all fighting talk erased and apparent betrayals of friendship overturned. While you can't accuse the novel of displaying insufficient boldness, fluency or exuberance, you might, with justice, question its sharpness or discrimination. It doesn't lack a kind of rummishous appeal—but, as with all clubs and coteries, this appeal is ultimately limited.

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# Taking the Kombi to the wonga vine

Bee-keeping hippies in New South Wales? Who cares, says Hugo Barnacle

You can bet that a novel calling itself *The Glade Within the Grove* will deal, in some probably obscure way, with the ritual goings-on in the Sacred Grove of Diana at Nemé, as detailed by Sir James Frazer in his archaeo-anthropological classic *The Golden Bough*, best remembered as a source for the phrase "bitten by the Golden Bow-Wow" to describe writers who become preoccupied with this subject, but it seems particularly appropriate in David Foster's case, because, like his narrator, D'Arcy D'Olivere, he is a former postman.

**The Glade Within the Grove**  
David Foster  
Fourth Estate, £16.99

The first year of the commune's existence. Nothing much actually happens except a few arguments and a battery-charging problem with the VW Kombi van. (There is a local killer on the loose, but he turns out to be a bit of a non-sequitur.) All the rest we have to gather from footnotes and asides.

It is quite difficult, in fact, to gather anything. In the long dialogue passages, Foster never says who is speaking. He just prints the lines and you try to work it out for yourself. He seldom says what the characters are doing, either. Nor is it always clear where they are or how they got there.

Interior settings consist of lists of objects, exterior settings of botanical names: "Cockspur, blushing bindweed, wonga vine. Higher up, on the dry ridge, hickory wattle, cranberry heath, Swainson pea, slender bitter pea, prickly shaggy pea, leafless sourbrush."

There are innumerable clevernesses that don't quite come off. D'Arcy, explaining the importance of trees to the climate, says, "Irish weather has steadily deteriorated over the past 1000 years, since the coming of the Celt, with his iron axe." But the Celts came to Ireland more like 2000 years ago.

Or again, "According to Mark, whose Gospel was the first Gospel to appear, the Incarnation of Christ occurred at the moment of Baptism... His Mother is of no more concern to me than the

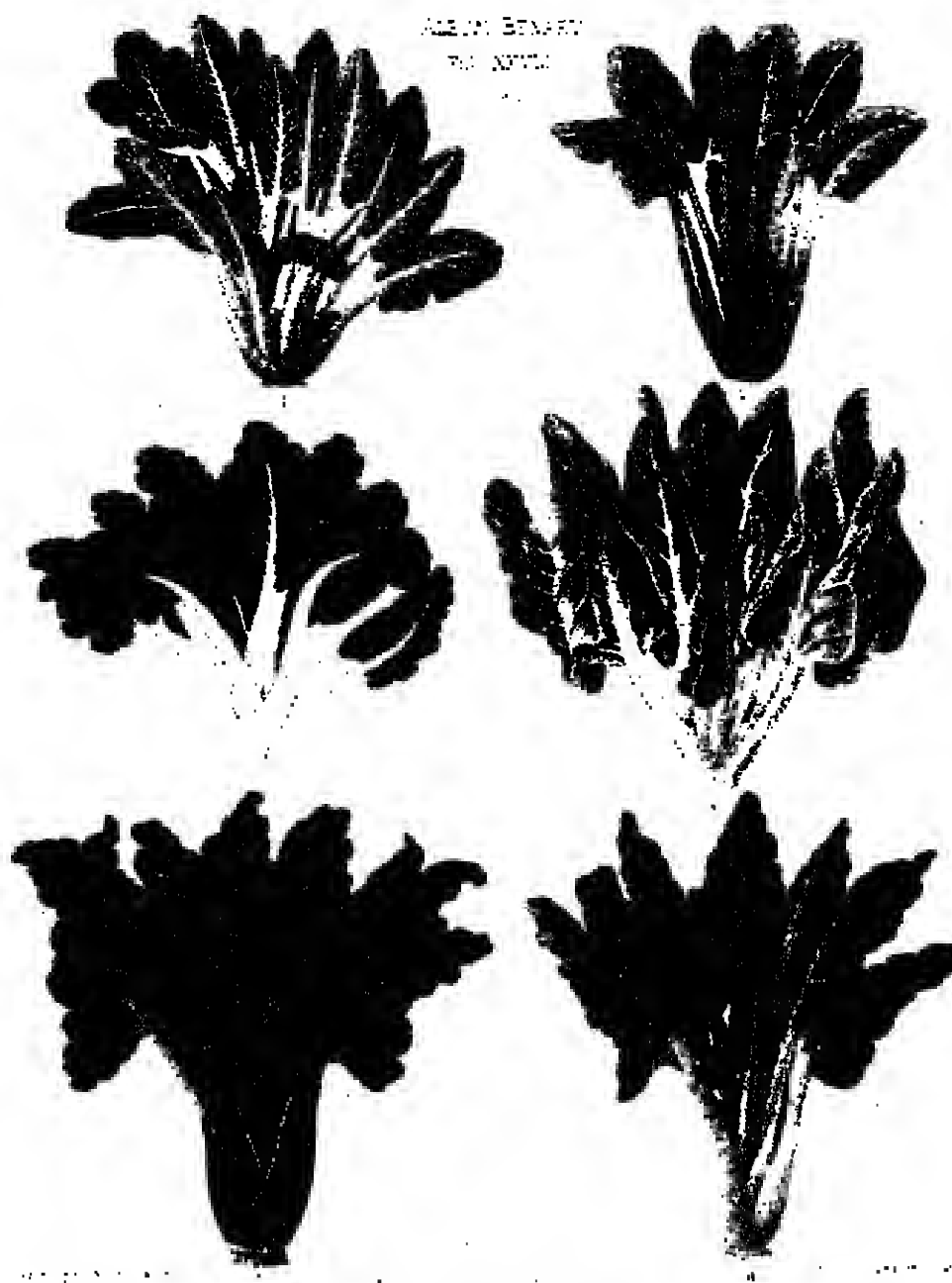
woman next door." But the idea of Incarnation does not appear in the Gospels at all, and was only confirmed as doctrine by the Council of Chalcedon in 351.

Or again, "Perusal of Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*... We read where Lancelot, wounded in battle, lay with Queen Guenevere all night, but both denied adultery when sprung the next day. He probably didn't put it in."

But Malory says, "sir Launcelot wente to bedde with the quene and toke no force of hys hurte honde, but toke hys pleasaunce and hys lyknyng untyll hin was the dawnyng of the day," which hardly sounds like a *nuis blanc*. And he didn't hurt his hand in battle, he did it breaking in through the window, which also suggests he meant business.

Or again, Eugene the American deserter says of his time as a GI in Vietnam, "And people don't seem to know what I've been through, you know?... The noise from those B52s! Very funny, except that the B52s were stationed in Thailand and Guam, far from Vietnam, and over the war zone they cruised eight miles high, notoriously inaudible from the ground. It was their silence that made them so sinister."

Almost all the book's smart-alec observations come unstuck one way or another. But at least it makes for consistency of tone, and it may be part of an ironic post-modernist stratagem, along with the sexist treatment of the women characters and the prevailing absence of point, intended as a comment on the sloppymindedness of hippies. Hard to say, or care.



ERNEST BENARY, ENFANT

Like his modern counterpart, the supermarket manager, the Victorian kitchen gardener was an ambitious man - producing everything from winter pineapples, grapes, apricots, and avocado pears to the six varieties of Swiss Chard, illustrated here by Ernest Benary in 1876 (clockwise from top left, golden-veined Brazilian, crimson-veined Brazilian, common or spinach, yellow Chiffon, red Chiffon, silver-veined). Benary's luscious drawings are taken from Susan Campbell's mouth-watering and informative book, *Charleston's History of Kitchen Gardening* (Ebury Press, £30.00) which explores and illustrates the horticultural secrets of the kitchen garden from Roman times to the present day.

# Gas lights and red crabs under a yellow moon

A novel about the artists and intelligentsia of war-time France is ruined by too much chat, says Carol Birch

In its long and chequered history the novel has taken many forms but this is the first time I've encountered it in the guise of reference book. If you are interested in the intellectual, social and artistic elite in France during the Second World War, they are all here - Matisse, Picasso, Malraux, Bonnard, Aragon, Cartier-Bresson, Coco Chanel, Hemingway, Breton...

**Matisse's War**  
by Peter Everett  
Cape, £15.99

end of the book you read of the death in Auschwitz of Daniele and Maie Politzer, you have a vague recollection of their appearance somewhere amongst the 300-odd pages; but you can't for the life of you muster much more than the fact that their names ring a bell. They probably joined in a three-page formal discussion on life, art or

politics, then vanished. For of such the book largely consists.

Matisse, at 70, keeps his head down, pursuing a course of resolute non-involvement and worrying about the problems of getting art materials in wartime ("There is no joy to equal that of buying a kilo of blue pigment, or of yellow ochre; even of black"). "My function is to paint," Matisse goes on to declare, "not to bear witness."

The surrealist poet, Louis Aragon, and his wife Elsa Triolet join the Resistance. Aragon fights, witnessing the horrors of combat first-hand. And the war drags on. Matisse, we are told, "gave up seeking

to extract the meaningful at the time as he gave up any interest in the audience's anticipation of narrative." Everett's book mirrors this.

*Matisse's War* is highly stylised, consisting of numerous short, unrelated sections through which the vast cast drifts, endlessly talking shop.

And how they talk. Like well-rehearsed guests in a studio discussion, like voice-overs for a highbrow documentary, they enlighten, inform, conjecture, flawless speeches are delivered word perfect, so long and textual that sometimes you lose the sense of the spoken word altogether and are pulled up

short by the sudden incongruity of an inverted comma at the end of several weighty paragraphs. Everybody sounds the same.

Somewhere here there is a novel trying to get out. There is an old man worried about the effects of barbarism on his work, the patient ennu of ageing lovers, scenes of horror and pathos and the chronic disorder of war. The writing is polished and formal, the descriptions of Matisse's paintings glow: "My moon is yellow with a red spiral. You can see Antibes in the upper left of the painting: gas lamps light the sea to lure the fish, and a crab hangs on the rocks."

But every novelistic shoot is drowned in an ocean of information.

Peter Everett is an erudite man, his research meticulous, but *Matisse's War* would have been a far more successful book if he had not tried to include everything. So great are his efforts to shoehorn in yet one more fact about the period, one more newspaper reference, that while scenes and conversations seem contrived purely for this purpose. So great is the control that variation is banished, and the same tone conveys passion, pain, joy and outrage. Somehow, despite the depicted brightness of the Matisse canvases, all is monotone.

## Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst

**Beyond a Boundary** by C.L.R. James (Serpent's Tail, £8.99) First published in 1963, this is not quite the ground-breaking synthesis of cricket and politics that some have claimed. It incorporates a beautifully observed memoir of Trinidad ("on Sunday...the underwear of the women crackled with starch") but occasionally strays into tedious didacticism. The heart of the book is passionate and profound study of West Indian inter-war cricketing heroes, ranging from the "princely" Leanie Constantine to a forgotten wicket-keeping genius called Piggott who held his hands "one inch from the wicket".

**A Wild Herb Soup** by Emilie Carles (Indigo, £7.99) This lucid, unsentimental memoir of hard times in a sublime Alpine community was an international best-seller. Born into grinding poverty in 1900, Carles was clever and hard-working enough to get herself a good education. Though her life was marked by tragedy - her mother struck by lightning, her sister sent mad by an alcoholic, pyromaniac husband - Carles emerges as resilient and highly principled. An ardent pacifist, she fought and won a fierce battle against the motorway planned for her isolated homeland. An incandescent life-story illustrated by an infinitesimal typeface.

**Intimacy** by Julian Rathbone (Indigo, £5.99) Living alone in a sun-baked villa high in the Sierra Nevada, David Querubin, the world's last castrato, decides to share the final days of his life with a young female acolyte. A mutually satisfying arrangement as both singers (as they discover over several bottles of rosé) turn out to have suffered more than their fair share of incest - the young woman with her father, the castrato with his mother. Practising their scales, they rehearse their parts. If mutilated organs and silk pyjamas don't turn you on, Rathbone's high standards of interior decor just might. Sophisticated entertainment from an old pro.

**The Divine Invasion** by Philip K. Dick (HarperCollins, £5.99) Science fiction writers don't come weirder than the late Philip K. Dick. This, the sequel to *1682*, one of the author's best known books, is no less than the story of God, alias an "autochthonic" being named Yah who hangs out on a far-away planet. When Yah attempts to invade earth by immaculately conceiving himself in the womb of a human woman, he's pursued by abortion-promoting members of the "new" Catholic church. To save the earth, he must be reborn. Dick obviously never lacked for compelling ideas. And yes, he did do drugs.

**Knight Errant** by Robert Stephens (Sceptre, £6.99) The culmination of a final, astonishing burst - a period which also saw Stephens' legendary Lear and Falstaff - this is the theatrical equivalent of Alan Clark's tell-all memoirs. Hugely entertaining, it is thick with juicy goblets of gossip: Oliver, naked before a mirror, declaring: "What a tragedy that such a very great actor should have such a very small cock." Coward insisting that males in his pool should be naked while females had to wear swimsuits; the amorous author finding himself alone with Antonia Fraser ("And that was that La-la-la." As exit lines go, they don't come much better than this book.

**In the Sixties** by Ray Connolly (Pavilion, £6.99) Clever and assiduous, Connolly's cull of clippings ranges far beyond the usual Sixties hippy-druggy-pop Zeitgeist. Of course, this milieu does appear - an amusing piece about Ken Kesey in London, Lennon's infamous "We're more popular than Jesus" interview and Rees-Mogg's "butterfly-on-a-wheel" defence of Jagger. But there's also Khe Sanh, Profumo, Aberfan and Ulster, together with a pleasing assortment of oddities including profiles of Charles Atlas and Ivy Benson. Connolly's contention that "it was an excellent era for journalism" more than holds up.

**Old Scores** by Frederic Raphael (Phoenix, £6.99) Raphael's latest novel of "bright young things" (not Oxbridge undergrads in long scarves, but Eighties duppies) is worth reading just for his stabs at contemporary dialogue. "Hairy hell! Sod it, honestly!" exclaims a *Daily Telegraph*-like journalist when he finds his penis covered in white paint. To which his girlfriend replies, while contemplating the "odd angle" of his erection: "You were jolly here-comes-Charlie, you know!" It's not until the story moves from SW1 to the Dordogne - with an unlikely new plot-twist involving a French resistance hero - that the dialogue mercifully lapses into French.

**Hearing Voices** by A.N. Wilson (Mandarin, £6.99) Set in St Giles New York, Birmingham and Norfolk, the fourth volume in A.N. Wilson's *Lampit Chronicles* (the fifth in the series is out this month in hardback) finds the English Catholic intelligentsia ready to do battle with the Pill. Snobbish Jesuit priests, Friar Tucks with cheesy feet, and Frigid Marys indulge in elegant doctrinal debates, comic sexual liaisons and infrequent trips to "Marce". The novel's plot is less memorable than its nightmarish depiction of smug foggymom in Brummie. Wilson always writes impeccably about people you wouldn't cross the road for.

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## country

# Postcards from the hedge

David Cohen talks to three people who bought the landscape of their dreams



Relaxing for Jim McAllister means hard labour at his 350-acre estate on the Surrey Downs

Photograph: Edward Sykes

When it comes to owning our own patch of green, most of us settle for a pot plant or a hedge. But not Margaret Gordon. She withdrew her savings of £5,500 and bought a Hampshire meadow. What was in it? "Nothing. Just a lot of grass," she laughs. "One and a half acres of it. I wanted fresh air, a space to dream and be creative and to see the sky again. It was my bid for freedom." Gordon, 43, is a management consultant from Southampton who earns £25,000 a year advising companies on stress management. When it came to alleviating her own stress, however, it was not a room with a view she sought, but a view with room, and plenty of it: a place to put her feet up and simply watch the grass grow. "The vista from my field is absolutely stunning," she says. "I look out over a river valley and can see 40 miles to the South Downs, the Solent and all the way to the Isle of Wight."

Gordon's hunt for a field of dreams began two years ago when she discovered that a friend shared the same yearning. The land agents they approached could only offer them expensive pony paddocks, but they persisted with their search and stumbled across a farmer selling 25 acres of arable land. They persuaded him to subdivide and bought three acres, which they halved between them. Now she drives to her meadow every weekend and often pops over on the way home from work to watch the sun set. "I love the peace and quiet, the sound of the wind in the trees, the birds, the thrill of being nowhere exactly. I don't have to insure it or fret that someone will steal or break it. Apart from arranging to give it a 'hay-cut' once a year, it's the ultimate worry-free possession," she enthuses.

Surprisingly, it is not difficult for ordinary individuals with a small amount of spare cash to buy a piece of the countryside, be it a field, a river or a forest. There are currently more than 30 "Forests for Sale" throughout the UK on the

books of specialist chartered surveyors like Bidwells and Cleggs, with price-tags ranging from £7,000 to £2.75 million. And according to Raymond Hendersoo of Bidwells, more and more city folk are becoming hip to the fact that it's affordable and very straightforward to purchase their own private woodland.

Jim McAllister, 51, the chairman of a property investment company, who lives in Chiswick, west London, bought his forest, near Guildford, 10 years ago. "I grew up on the edge of a forest in Scotland so I was used to running wild and having hills and trees around me," he says. "When I came to live in London, I used to drive to the Surrey Downs with my family every weekend and cycle through the woodland. One day I saw a For Sale sign at the entrance to my favourite forest. It was a magical place. But when I called the agent, it had already gone to someone else. I was bitterly disappointed. Then as luck had it, the sale fell through, they re-tendered and my offer was accepted."

McAllister's forest stretches across 350 acres and cost in the region of £300,000. It has 23 varieties of trees, some more than 500 years old, including Scots pine and Douglas firs, as well as 10 kilometres of track and a thriving wildlife population of deer, foxes, hawks, owls, rabbits, squirrels, grass snakes, adders, pheasants and badgers.

"I often work from 6am to midnight in my business, so by the end of the week I can't wait to get

down here and relax," he says. Relaxing to McAllister means hard physical labour in the woods, building up a sweat before lunch, at which time friends might arrive for a barbecue. "It's calming to be in a forest," he says. "When one is successful in business, it is easy to become over-inflated and lose perspective. Being in my forest brings me down to size. I walk amongst trees that have been here for hundreds of years and I realise that I'm not so significant, that I am only here for a relatively short time."

But what began as a casual interest has become his passion. McAllister has completed forestry courses and learnt to cut down trees and maintain habitats. His four children and their friends muck in as well. To maintain a forest costs money, and McAllister employs foresters to help him, but how much you spend is entirely up to you. "To get to know your forest and the animals that live in it is fascinating. You can't compare that kind of intimate knowledge with going for a stroll in the country. It's awe-inspiring, magical. My favourite time is first thing in the morning, walking down a track and seeing a fox or a deer silhouetted against the early morning rising sun and totally unaware of my presence."

But if it's space and freedom you're after, why stop at a forest? Why not buy the ultimate – an island? Or are they the preserve of the mega-rich? Farhad Vladi, a 51-year-old Canadian, attributes his love of islands to a boyhood romance that

over wore off: "I read Robinson Crusoe when I was far too young and have been smitten with island fever ever since," he says. "When I was an economics student, I read about an island for sale that was part of the Seychelles group and set off to buy it. But when I got there I discovered they were asking \$300,000, which I could not afford. So I did the next best thing. I found a buyer and used the finder's fee to build up my own capital so that one day I could buy my own island."

Thirty years later, having acted as agent in the sale of more than 500 islands to private individuals, Vladi has three islands to call his own: Sleepy Cove off the coast of Canada; Galloo Island in the US and a 2,000-acre island with sheep off the coast of New Zealand. He won't divulge price, but insists that you don't have to be film star-rich to buy an island. "In Canada, Scotland and Finland, you can pick up an island for £25,000, or £200,000 buys a first-class island with house, beaches, anchorage, proximity to mainland, nice elevations, a lake and a river." Indeed, this summer, 19 islands off Scotland's west coast are under the hammer, some with an asking price of no more than a medium-sized house in London.

Of course, getting to your island can cost a packet. Vladi must fly to the nearest city, drive to the nearest port and then take a small boat to his jetty. But cost aside, aren't island owners quite different to the kind of people that buy fields or forests? "Sure, there are crazy guys who buy islands because they want to rule like ego-maniacs over their kingdom, or because they are social misfits, but I am not like that," declares Vladi. "I use my islands to recharge my batteries just like anyone else. I just get to do it in perfect surroundings, encircled on all sides by blue sea, with no neighbours to bicker with and no government to tell me what to do. It's the closest you can get on earth to pure freedom. And what could be more thrilling than that?"



The closest you can get to pure freedom says Farhad Vladi of his three islands

Vladi Private Islands

## Return of the grouse on the Welsh hills of Pale Moor

By Michael Prestage

What happened in Wales on the Glorious 12th? Not a great deal, and certainly nothing much at Pale Moor in North Wales. At the start of the grouse-shooting season, gamekeeper Craig Jones listened to vain for the sound of grouse – and other birds. All that could be seen were crows circling beyond the range of the shotgun he carried.

"The air should be alive with birdsong, including the rapid-fire call of grouse," he said. "But listen, there's complete silence."

Yet an unusual alliance of conservationists and field sports enthusiasts is working on a five-year project to re-introduce the red grouse across thousands of acres of heather moorland in Wales. Other moorland species, such as the black grouse, golden plover and lapwing, will also benefit if the collaboration between the Countryside Council for Wales, the Game Conservancy Trust and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is successful.

And the showpiece for the newly-formed Welsh Grouse Project is the 8,000-acre Pale Moor, near Bala, Gwynedd. Here it is hoped that grouse will

survive if moorland is properly managed.

Paradoxically, if the sound of shotguns are again heard on Welsh moors the project will have been a success. For the money raised from the bird's popularity as a quarry for shooting will help underwrite the conservation work.

Years of neglect have taken their toll at Pale Moor: the heather has been allowed to grow without regular burning and is now the wrong height for many bird species; the population of predators has gone unchecked; and there are too many sheep being grazed.

Cootrolling predators is a priority. A trap set high on the moor contains the latest batch of crows to fall prey to the new gamekeeper and they will be humanely dispatched, as will the foxes that come within sight of his gun.

A quarter of a century ago Wales had a higher density of red grouse than Scotland, but predation coupled with overgrazing and disease has reduced the population to the point of extinction. There are believed to be fewer than 1,000 breeding pairs left. Mr Jones

has a faded black-and-white picture from the turn of the century that shows 12 gamekeepers on the Pale Moor preparing to set out to organise a day's shoot for the landowner and his guests.

A walk across the moor reveals 50-year-old shooting butts now falling into disrepair where a dozen or more guns could be comfortably accommodated. Winstoo Churchill used to shoot here and locals can remember 40 brace being taken in a day. Before Mr Jones's recent arrival, it was 20 years since the last gamekeeper was employed here.

"This is one of Wales's last wildernesses," Mr Jones explained. "When it goes, some of the last of the ground-feeding birds in the country go with it. It has to be managed to survive. For example, there is only one pair of curlew on 4,500 acres."

His sense of commitment is shared by Ian Lindsay, co-ordinator of the Welsh Grouse Project. "We hope to show that the objectives of sporting management, conservation and upland farming need not be incompatible," Mr Lindsay said. "It is all a question of balance. Over the



Red Grouse: waiting to be re-introduced to Pale Moor

Photograph: Planet Earth

last 40 years the balance has swung in favour of agriculture."

He explained there are now no large, formal grouse shoots in Wales and it is unlikely they would ever return. Yet they hope to raise grouse numbers to a level where field-sports enthusiasts can enjoy their sport.

"In Scotland, continued investment in keepers and moorland management has maintained viable grouse populations," said Mr Lindsay. "In

Wales, this tradition has, with very few exceptions, been lost, resulting in a downward spiral of fewer grouse, fewer keepers and less management. Hand-in-hand with this has been the decline in the quality of heather upland."

The Welsh Grouse Project will study grouse numbers and research into specific problems, such as harrack, which is over-running the heather moorlands. Blood tests on grouse shot in the Berwyn Mountains, close to

the Pale Moor, showed high levels of louping-ill, one of the two major illnesses affecting the birds. It can cause 80 per cent mortality in chicks and research on a cure is under way.

"If all goes well there will be a sufficient population of grouse built up in five years," said Craig Jones. "That is the challenge for me. What makes it all the more rewarding is that I am helping restore a moor that is an asset for Wales."



DUFF HART-DAVIS

Cranks taken in by pranks? That is how many people view the faithful few who carry out research into crop circles; but if you spend a day in the company of a dedicated practitioner such as Lucy Pringle, you can hardly emerge with scepticism intact.

In her estimation, this has been a bumper season for crop formations. It started late, because the crops themselves were late after the cold spring, but it flowered into a splendid harvest as amazing shapes appeared in wheat and barley across the chalk downlands of Wiltshire, Hampshire and Berkshire, with outliers as far afield as Somerset and Nottingham.

Some of them, certainly, were man-made. There was no secret, for instance, about the twin circles joined by a bar – a kind of dumb-bell – which manifested themselves on the farm belonging to Tim and Polly Carson near Alton Barnes. These were laid out one night by two young Germans, whose addition to the creation of formations is such that, with the agreement of the farmers, they come over every summer to try some new design.

Yet in Lucy's view many formations derive from natural causes. One of this year's most remarkable was the huge pattern close to Stonehenge which appeared early in the evening of 7 July. The pilot of a light aircraft coming up from Exeter flew over the field as he was starting his descent into Thruxton, some five minutes away. At that moment the wheat was unblemished. When he returned within half an hour, the corn below him was imprinted with an astonishing array.

Experts described the formation as a Julia set, or fractal image (one which can be divided *ad infinitum*): several dozen circles of swept-down corn had appeared in a lazy curve reminiscent of a lizard seen from above. The circles graduated in diameter from a couple of feet at the tail to 15 yards at the head, and the whole layout was 900 feet long by 500 wide. As Lucy remarked, it was inconceivable that humans could have made it unobserved, and in fewer than 30 minutes.

The same applied still more emphatically to an even bigger formation which appeared at the foot of Windmill Hill, near the village of Yatesbury, on the night of 1 August. This was another fractal image, but a triple one, with three lizard-like curves of circles swinging into a single head, the whole more than 1,000 feet across.

When Lucy first visited this site, two days later, the swept-down corn had "a marvellous bounce to it" – the sure sign (in her view) of a formation made by natural forces. In man-made circles the crop is crushed and flattened, but in others it is left fluffed up in an even blanket six or eight inches off the earth. The destructive agent appears to be a sudden burst of energy which softens the stalks of the corn just above the soil.

When I visited the site, I was immediately struck by the fact that from ground level, in a field set so only the gentlest slope, it was impossible to see the whole formation at once, or to get any idea of its shape. Only when we flew over could I appreciate that the whole was laid out with astonishing elegance and precision.


A veteran of many summers' research, Lucy is cautious with explanations. "Everyone thinks up the wildest ideas," she says. "For example that the triple Julia was somehow created by a Ministry of Defence satellite operating bomb-disposal equipment." She mentions ley lines, and believes that Windmill Hill, Silbury Hill and the like are "power-packed places".

She herself believes that natural formations are caused by abrupt discharges of energy, and she can report many curious happenings. Last year, when two labradors entered a circle, they ran amok and attacked the nearest human: outside the formation again, they reverted to their normal sloppy selves. This time, several people who went into the Stonehenge formation felt extremely ill, and one man – a molecular biologist, used to working with radiation – staggered out claiming that he had been irradiated. Over the next few days the bodies of visitors passing through seemed to drain off the energy, but grains of wheat still carried a high charge.

Flying low along the line of the Ridgeway – the ancient track that follows the top of the Downs – we came eyeball-to-eyeball with the Uffington White Horse, with Iroo Age hill forts, with prehistoric burial mounds. Out in the plain to the south the megaliths of Avebury and Stonehenge stood sentinel. Could it be that the forces which shape crop formations today are the same as those which made primitive people raise their monuments in this wide-open landscape?



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## shopping

# Blinded by the light

Are net curtains a sad necessity? Lesley Gillilan looks for the alternatives



Michael Jones in his apartment in London's East End. "I feel trapped behind blinds or curtains". Below: Sheer madness, Lord Howard de Walden insists on them.

Photograph: Philip Meach

Net curtains may be to window-wear what Cripple two-pieces are to fashion, but John Lewis plc, I am told, shifts "many thousands of metres" of the stuff every week. At least half of Britain's population, it seems, peers at the outside world through a mist of diaphanous polyester.

And it's not just suburban folk who think an unveiled window is a mite indecent. A couple of months ago, Lord Howard de Walden hoisted sheer curtains a few steps up the social ladder by insisting on their use. The tenants of his central London estate - which includes the Georgian terraces of Wimpole Street and Harley Street - are now compelled to hang nets.

One reason, according to his edict, is to "protect the estate's elegant residential character". To protect one's inner sanctum from passing nosy Parkers, yes. To shield your expensive hi-fi equipment from the eyes of snoopers, perhaps. But elegant? Some of his tenants must be struggling with their aesthetic consciences and wondering how on earth they are supposed to protect their street cred.

They can always move east, to a net-free zone such as 66 St John's Street, Clerkenwell, where developer Ivory Gate is poised to launch the first of 14 luxury loft apartments, overlooking the gardens of Charterhouse. "We intend to reserve an absolute right to prescribe what people put up in their windows," says spokesper-

son Bunny Bridges. "The building is uncompromisingly modern and we don't want any ruffled or net curtains cluttering up the clean uniformity of the exterior."

Indeed, according to image consultant, Stephen Bayley, the "melancholy net" is not only a dirt trap and an anathema to modernism but is also "certain evidence of the petit-bourgeois sensibility. The net curtain offers a sheen of sophistication as if its very translucence was a social filter. The entirely understandable need to moderate light without excluding it is far better achieved with elegant Roman blinds or robust wooden Venetians."

Given that you have a choice - and that you are not living under a regime of curtain Fascism - bow else do you achieve the tricky balance between light and shade, privacy and uninterrupted views, security and sartorial credibility?

Design consultant, Patricia Howard suggests wooden Venetians - "of a very high quality; there's an awful lot of tat around" - or hand-ditched roller blinds in sheer silk, fine muslin or organza. "Metal Venetians have had it. They're so very Eighties," she said. "And vertical ones are an abomination."

S&L Blinds in Stoke Newington, London suggest made-to-measure Silhouette "voiles". This new Belgian Product is made of two layers of fine, net-like linen, interwoven with slats of wood. "They look like Venetians and tilt like Venetians," says S&L's Steve Moss, "but they

provide both the transparency and the obscurity of a net curtain and roll up into a box like a roller blind." He adds that they are also one of the most expensive blinds on the market, averaging around £220 per window.

A small price to pay, compared to adjustable louvred, interior shutters which, according to supplier Kerry Retallack of The House of Shutters, "look gorgeous", but cost anything from £150 (for a small bathroom window) to £900 (for a bay with 16 panels). Custom-made in America, they are available in hard wood or pine and can be plain, stained, painted or colour washed to blend in with any interior decor.

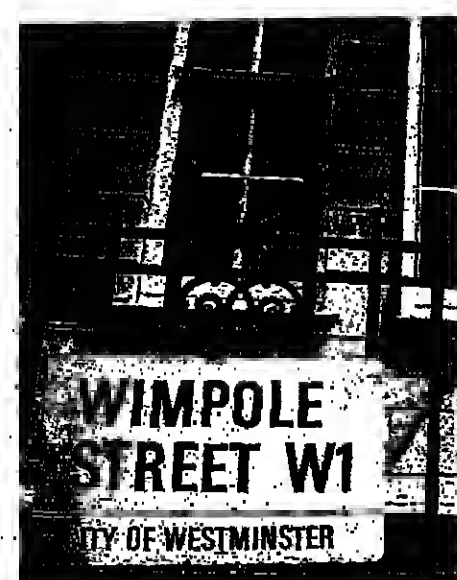
Architect Nico Rensch of Archteam is a roller-blind man and he offers a nifty alternative to the standard pull-down variety. He simply turns them upside down. Roll-up blinds, he points out, offer privacy without cutting out all the light - though you do lose the lower half of your view. Custom-made roll-ups are available from Tidmarsh & Sons but, says Nico, they are still not perfect. "The stupid thing about most curtains and blinds is that they offer only two options - open or closed," he says. "Naff as they are, there is no really satisfactory alternative to nets."

In defence of nets, Evelyn Strouts of John Lewis insists that some of their customers do think of sheers as a fashion item. The latest thing, she says, is bright, coloured voiles - in trendy lime green, blue, orange and yellow.

Wisp of cotton-mix muslin, draped informally on curtain poles, is another popular option. "It is essential that you use soft nets with a good drape," says Evelyn. Having looked at the range, I would eschew all man-made fibres and go for the transparent Indian cottons.

But as architect Michael Jones discovered, liberating your windows from the tyranny of curtains is not that easy. When he bought a ground floor apartment in a converted East End factory building called Pattern House, one of the main attractions was a wall of street-facing, industrial windows. He hung Venetians in the bedroom ("for obvious modesty reasons") but he didn't want to compromise either the light or the raw beauty of his galvanised-steel glazing bars. So he left the rest undressed. "I feel trapped behind blinds or curtains," he says. "I like to be able to see out because the view is full of life and it makes me feel part of the city. The down-side is that people can see in, but I don't mind being on display. I haven't got anything to hide."

His friends, however, felt uncomfortable about the arrangement. "I think they were worried about security rather than privacy. And I've finally given in to the pressure." He doesn't think he'll actually use them, but a set of plain metallic Venetian blinds have been ordered. Michael considered sheer cotton roller blinds, but nets were not an option. Pattern House is another Clerkenwell development that doesn't allow them - even if they are fashionably lime green.



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**2** French Connection jeans, £48. White jeans are probably the most sensible option for white trousers. They will endure beyond the fads of different trouser cuts. From branches of French Connection nationwide. Stockist enquiries, 0171-580 2507.

**3** Armand Basi towelling top, £50. This round-necked, long-sleeved top is extremely comfortable, though, those not accustomed to today's outlandish fabrics may find the idea of wearing something resembling a nappy a bit bizarre. From Armand Basi, 12 Floral Street, London WC2; Wardrobe, Deansgate, Manchester and Nichols, Great Western Arcade, Birmingham. Stockist enquiries, 0171-278 4843.

**4** Sally Gissing belt, £49. Crocodile-print white patent belt with a silver buckle. For smoothies eager to slip into that head-to-toe white, Seventies-style suit. From Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Stockist enquiries, 0171-267 9303.

**5** Calvin Klein pants, £17.95. These now classic boxer shorts are featured mainly as a warning to men: if you're going to wear white, worry about the shade of your underwear. Women have to every day. From Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 and branches of House of Fraser nationwide.

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Stylist: Charlie Harrington. Photographer: Tony Buckland.

## The thing about... personal stationery

Which act has caused the biggest collective sigh of frustration recently? The answer is yet another re-organisation of area telephone dialling codes. The human animal dislikes change at the best of times.

But this seemingly deliberate act is guaranteed to cause wailing and gnashing of teeth. All those change-of-number notification cards, the extra digits in your Filofax, the agony of working out how to re-programme the phone.

Still, some will be smiling gamely at the silver lining as the cloud descends: the stationers. The last time this happened there was some suspicion, especially in London, where line-renters had already been subject to one change, that someone somewhere was getting kick-backs from the printers of letterheads: that suspicion will become conviction now.

One can understand that companies might rely on a pristine letterhead. The mystery is why individuals persist in laying out extortionate amounts for boxes of the stuff. The answer, of course, is that once you've started you can't stop: the personality type that needs a perfect letterhead in the first place can never be satisfied with ball-point-written phone numbers.

So what does your bought letterhead say about you? First of all, it suggests a certain illiteracy where computers are concerned. Now that most households have access to a computer, even if it is the one bought with supermarket tokens for a grandchild's school, it would be easy enough to change your letterhead at will. But a laser print is often not enough. We've all seen intolerable snobs run their thumbnails over invitations and sneer if they're not embossed. They do it with addresses, too. If you mind about that sort of thing, get help.

Consider help, also, if you have a plastic bag full of little gold stick-ons. It's a generally acknowledged rule among those who receive hate mail that the most vituperative, unless it's anonymous, generally comes with one of these labels attached.

Typefaces, also, say more about the chooser than they would like. Respectable companies, after all, are using graphologists in their recruitment processes these days. Beware of curly script learnt in American handwriting classes, actually known as English; people who have this tend to cosiness and sentimentality. Lovers of Gothic are startlingly prone to competitive pendency. Umbrat, that 3-D-effect shadow script, suggests an ego out of control. The Art Deco of Broadway is popular with advertising wannabes. You're probably best off with plain Roman. It may denote conservatism or indeed lack of imagination, but at least no one will spot your own particular brand of insanity.

Serena Mackesy

In last week's column, Tesco's new Clubcard Plus became "Cabernet Plus". Apologies to the store and any confused readers.

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# property

## What would you pay for a gorgeous garden? A beautiful, mature plot might not command the premium you expect

By Penny Jackson

A friend's mother always insists that she lives in a garden with a cottage. After years of army postings during which time she satisfied her love of plants by sketching strange and exotic flowers, she finally settled in a sheltered Somerset valley. Nothing will uproot her now from the garden it took so long to create. But for many people, moving is a chance to start again, to get it right. At last the problem of a garden too large or too small or too windy can be remedied. And even though buyers with soil testers rather than tape measures are thin on the ground, gardens can make – or break – a sale.

What is surprising, perhaps, is that a beautiful, mature garden does not necessarily lead to a rush of offers. When Wendy Lauderdale put her three-bedroom Wiltshire cottage on the market in the early summer, she anticipated a quick sale. It was not just that it was pretty, thatched and in open countryside close to the famous Stourhead Estate, but because the garden is gorgeous. Mrs Lauderdale opened it under the National Gardens Scheme and two years ago it was voted as one of the places visitors most enjoyed.

It is the kind of garden most of us can only dream of creating. At the moment it is at a high-summer peak: hydrangeas and the tall, ethereal, lilac-coloured Thalictrum are in full bloom in borders mixed with different shades of bergamot and interspersed with pots of lilies. Alongside a pergola of honeysuckle, roses and clematis – now past its best – Japanese anemones are springing up. Phlox are on the verge of spectacular. Dramatic but also, it seems, daunting.

"So many people say they could never manage the upkeep," said Mrs Lauderdale. "In fact the hard work is done, all it needs is a bit of thinning out, dead heading in summer and then pruning. But I haven't seen a real gardener yet. You would be amazed how many people trip down the path without even a glance at the garden."

It was 12 years ago that she and her



Wendy Lauderdale at work in the garden she created 12 years ago

Photograph: Christopher Jones

husband bought the cottage, on a National Trust lease. The Lauderdale's carved the garden out of field and this into distinctive areas – which makes it seem larger than its half an acre. Wendy Lauderdale has even written a book, describing its creation. Nevertheless, she is pragmatic about her imminent departure: "I can always

create another garden, and I always tell people that they don't have to keep it as it is. They can concrete it over if they want to."

Size of garden can prove a sticking point, estate agents find. Simon Barker of Michael de Peier who, with Knight Frank, is selling the Lauderdale's house for offers in excess of £185,000, said

that the Lauderdale's garden has helped the price. But he added that people interested in a cottage would not be keen to employ a gardener, whereas this would be taken for granted with a large house and garden. Nor do buyers stipulate what kind of garden they want. "Occasionally we get people asking for walled gardens, but

not many are specific – it limits their choice of house," he said.

Many buyers who are keen gardeners like the idea of starting from scratch and the potential of a house with either a neglected garden or surrounded by rough land has a strong appeal, especially if it is in a good position. While at the other end of the scale, there is a premium on houses with gardens designed by someone famous. Ian Stewart of Savills reckons that a Gertrude Jekyll garden, for instance, adds at least 10 per cent to the value. "It has to go to the right person, someone who appreciates the planting and that a good garden cannot be created overnight."

Certainly, in London, where designers are at work on pea-sized plots, an established garden with traits of Jekyll-inspired naturalism would be snapped up. But, again, size can be a drawback. Ben Stage, of Goldschmidt & Howland's Hampstead office, says that some people refuse to touch a large garden with a hanger-on, even if the upkeep is less than for a small, intricate plot. "If a family does want a large garden, they often go for zero maintenance – trees and a good area of grass for the kids to play on." A good-sized period property in Hampstead with a garden of about 800 sq ft would be in the region of £500,000 to £1m.

As for the perennial search for the perfect south-facing plot, in many cases this is a waste of effort, says Mr Stage. "A south-facing garden is no good if you have very tall buildings or trees at the end. A north-facing garden that is open to the west can be much sunnier."

However, in central London, the best kept secrets are the secluded garden squares, hidden from prying eyes. No one who spends just part of the year in town wants the burden of a garden. Buy a house in, say, Green Street in Mayfair (about £2m), says Simon Barnes of Laseans, and with it comes access to a communal garden with fountain, flower beds and privacy. And if you want to party, *sur tunc*, there are no worries about weeds. The Grosvenor Estate sees to all that.

### Househunter Greenwich



Here is a rare chance to live in a castle in London. A four-bedroom detached wing of Vauxhall Castle in Greenwich has just come on to the market. The 18th-century, Grade I-listed building was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh, architect of Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace. The accommodation is arranged over two floors and there are magnificent views over Greenwich Park and London from the 31ft reception room. Asking price is £450,000 for a 999 year lease. Agents are Winkworth (0181-852 0999).

### For what it's worth

The marriage ceremony is not the only service to have a language overhaul this week. Black Horse Surveying Services yesterday gave a lead to the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors by launching a no-jargon home survey that meets the approval of the Plain English Campaign. Instead of wording such as "Difficulties in access restricted visual inspection of the second roof-space and it cannot be regarded, therefore, as free from defect", you would get: "I could not see the second roof-space". The survey also offers customers a pledge of a direct approach to complaints, avoiding the costly legal route. Peter Bruning, national director of Black Horse Surveying Services, said the trigger had been a *Which?* report of 15 months ago. This had looked at the courts' failure to help consumers of surveys get justice and criticised the use of caveats and difficult language in reports. The new survey also offers free emergency insurance cover for a year and and homebuyers can save around £100 if they choose Black Horse to do a survey at the time their bank or building society does a valuation.

PJ

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By Brian Patten

100



# The real price of being a fanatic

## THE POP FAN

- 1 Concert ticket from £16 - there is no substitute for seeing kids in the flesh.
- 2 T-shirts £15 - essential "proof" that the devoted fan has been there.
- 3 Programmes and souvenirs can add a further £20 to the cost of a concert. Full merchandise can cost £1700.
- 4 Pop magazines 90p-£2 for free posters, and to keep up with the latest music news.
- 5 CDs and videos £3.99 to £12.99; every song must be covered and no lucrative "collectors" issue ignored.

## THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTER

- 1 Ticket - the lower leagues may be cheap, but you'll pay up to £40 for a Premiership league game.
- 2 Football shirt - all three club designs could cost you £120. Some clubs currently offer six.
- 3 Subscription to satellite television £26 a month - for the matches you can't get to.
- 4 Travel - a European match may cost you your family holiday.
- 5 Food, drink and fares at away matches can cost £1800 a season.

## THE OPERA BUFF

- 1 A seat in the stalls at the Royal Opera House could cost £120.
- 2 Take your picnic to Glyndebourne - £30000 will buy you "founder membership".
- 3 CDs of opera may cost £40 each, but essential for listening at home.
- 4 You may need £500 cash to secure that tout ticket for Pavarotti.
- 5 Formal wear - daring, when you've got that much money, who cares?



It may come as a shock on the terraces. But it can cost more to follow your favourite football team than to be an opera buff

JO MOYES

What price devotion? As the football season begins, some fans are about to discover that their draughty seat in the stands may cost them more than a box the Opera.

In the 1990s, real dedication, whether it be to Blackburn, Walsley, or Boyzone, is an expensive business. For the average football fan, the cost of going up with a favourite team can now run into thousands of pounds a year.

David Blatt, vice chairman of the London branch of the Football Supporters' Association, describes the sport as his "religion". But he admits that following the dream has left him broke.

A season ticket to a Premiership club can now cost between £250 and £600. In the last five years it has gone up by around 50 per cent, but ticket prices are going up an average 300 per cent. It's a joke, he said.

For First Division clubs you're looking at a gate of between £10 and £40. Say you go to 30 games a season, every game an away trip. With your money, a couple of drinks and a dog burger, you're well in for £60 for the day. That's £1800 a season.

Fans who cannot afford to travel to every game might instead subscribe to Sky sports channels. They are the only way to secure full match coverage, at a cost of approximately £26 a month.

"If you don't want to pay the subscription you go to a pub, but some pubs are now charging £4 to £5 to come in on big match days," said Mr Blatt, a Manchester United fan.

Then there is the football strip, made legendary by David Mellor and a fashion item no football fan can do without - a fact not unnoticed by the clubs.

Full kits, including shorts, tops and socks cost up to £69. Some clubs produce up to three a year. Mr Blatt says he and his household would be "decked from top to bottom in red and white" if his wife allowed it. But he admits that passion has an

evening at a Boyzone concert, for example, might cost the devotee £16 per ticket, £25 in travel and £10 in food and drink.

"Then you would have to have a programme - £6, a T-shirt, - £15, and your commemorative poster, key ring and mug - total £14," Ms Thornton said. Add to your video of Boyzone hit singles a video of the concert, "so that you can relive your moment in the audience", and you are a further £25 down. This is before you have even bought the music. (The average *Smash Hits* reader, says Ms Thornton, buys four CD singles and two albums a month).

The "must-haves" of the merchandising industry is not lost on *Smash Hits*, which now produces its own line. "We feature Boyzone in every issue. We know that people will buy it, just for a poster," said Ms Thornton, who says there are "tens and thousands" of such fans; a recent offer of the underpants of Take That heartthrob Mark Owen's, "worn and unwashed", received 300,000 applications.

"With merchandise now it's not what they can afford, it's what they can't afford not to have," she said.

David Blatt agreed. He would sacrifice the cost of the family holiday if it meant going to a dream match.

"The most important words in the world are 'I was there'. Nothing can compensate for that. That's worth however much you have to pay."

'The game may get so expensive that it stops being for ordinary people'

increasingly high price. "If you've got kids, for example, it just becomes too expensive. There may be a point where football stops being an ordinary man's game."

Perhaps Mr Blatt ought to redirect his tenner towards a tenor. A three-season ticket for all productions at the English National Opera would cost him a mere £75 to £600 a year.

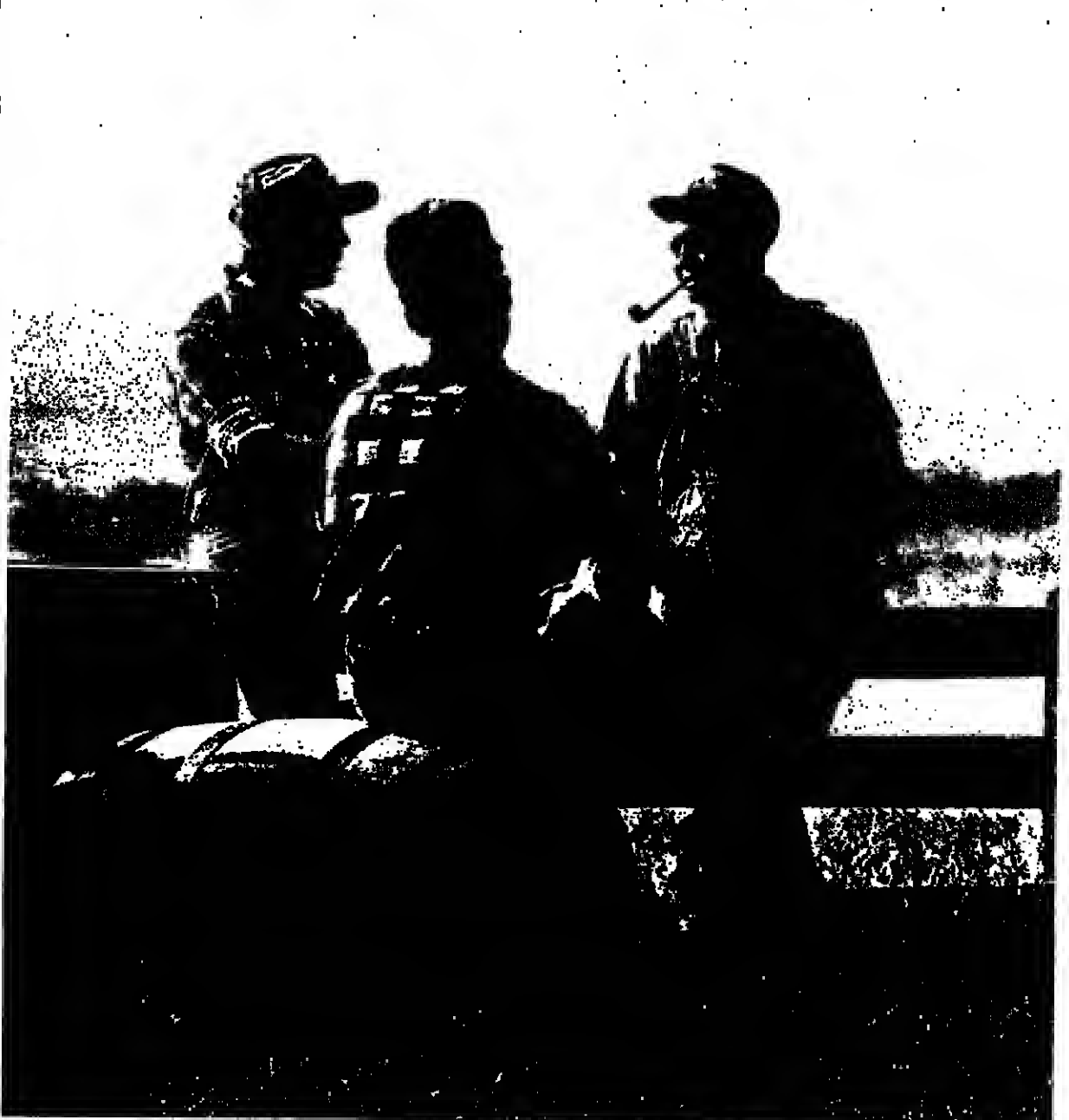
Productions at the Royal Opera House would cost him a little more. While tickets in the Gods (the opera equivalent of the football terraces) cost an average £45, tickets in the stalls average out at £114-120 each.

A fan with a passion for Pavarotti might pay more, demand for his performances

means that tickets have changed hands for up to £500.

But for the true opera buff, the high G of the opera year is the Glyndebourne Festival. This year, tickets cost just £10 upwards. For a donation of between £30,000-£150,000, they could become founder members, which guarantees tickets, although they have to be paid for on top, along with an annual subscription of £960-£4,800.

At this depth of pocket, aficionados are unlikely to worry about the subsidiary costs of a couple of glasses of champagne, dinner for two and the accompanying CDs, which can now be



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## Postmen's leaders prepare to call four-day strike

Postal workers' leaders yesterday threatened to stage a four-day strike unless fresh talks are held on the long-running dispute over pay and working practices.

Industrial action will be escalated to hit mail deliveries from 30 August for four days if talks are not re-opened by next Thursday, the date of the next postal strike.

The executive of the Communication Workers' Union said support for the campaign of industrial action was solid and officials disputed the Royal Mail's claims of a drift back to work.

Alan Johnson, the union's joint general secretary, said he hoped the threatened four-day strike would not be necessary and pledged that efforts would be made to resume negotiations.

But the Royal Mail said it was "outraged" to threaten further strikes while continuing to refuse to ballot members on an offer worked out during the protracted negotiations that were held at Acas.

Richard Dykes, its managing director, said: "We are appalled at the union's complete disregard for customers and for the views of its own members. Further strike action is not going to resolve this dispute. It will only make the situation worse."

"The union executive are burying their heads in the sand. Threatening further strikes will put the jobs of their members at risk as well as causing further disruption for customers."

The union was "ignoring reality" in claiming that support for strikes was solid, Mr Dykes

said, and added that 19,400 postmen and women worked during Wednesday's strike, more than double the number who did so during the first walkout.

The union disputed the figures. It said support for the campaign of industrial action was holding firm and had strengthened in some regions. In a briefing paper that has been issued to union branches, Mr Johnson said that more effort would be made to resume negotiations with the Royal Mail.

Wednesday's strike had been probably the best supported of the five that have been held so far, he added. Given the Royal Mail's efforts to claim that the dispute was crumbling and that workers were insisting on a ballot, Wednesday was the

"most crucial" date in the union's programme of industrial action so far.

The Department of Trade and Industry made no direct comment on the executive's decision.

A spokesman for the department said that the Government's one-month suspension of the Royal Mail's monopoly would be reviewed at the end of the period.

The Government has threatened to extend the suspension of the monopoly by three months if further industrial action is called.

The union had previously set strikes on Friday 30 August and Monday 2 September, and threatened yesterday to add the intervening Saturday and Sunday unless new talks are held.

time must!!

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4  
news

Making the grade: Students celebrating success in the A-level examinations, but, according to one careers adviser, success at this stage is no guarantee of anything

Photomontage: Jonathan Arntsee

The day  
Britain  
got  
that  
A-grade  
feeling

JAMES CUSICK

Students anticipating further academic success, fame, fortune and happiness after scoring five top grades in their A-levels should beware of counting their chickens, according to Oxford University's careers adviser. High achievement at this stage is no guarantee of anything.

But there is worse news for those A-level students who did not do so well. Brunel University's careers office maintains that even if poor A-level performance is overcome and an undergraduate goes on to gain a first-class honours degree, today's blue-chip companies looking for recruits are still interested in A-level results.

A spokesman said: "CAHP is the buzzphrase at the moment - consistent academic high performance. They want to know if you've always been bright."

"One of the really sad things these days is that what you do at A-level now comes back to haunt you. It is one of the big problems facing students - that their early performance seems to matter rather a lot."

Tom Snow, of Oxford University, cautioned: "There is a good correlation between A-level results and later academic performance. But the correlation is not so good between their academic performance and what they go on to do next."

In what Mr Snow quaintly called the "after-life", certificated success was "not enough". He advised: "You should never think you are going to walk straight into a great job. You've still got hard choices to make, and a lot of work to do."

Mr Snow's warning of no guarantees proved too accurate for one pupil who gained six top grade A-levels. The head teacher of King Edward's school in Bath has written to Cambridge University to complain after it rejected one of its pupils. Andrew Archer's results proved he intelligent, but appeared not to be an open passport.

If the choice is hard at age 13, it is harder at age 19. Mr Lawrence achieved a top grade in A-level mathematics at 17 when most normal pupils struggling with long division sums. Mr Snow's correlator held. She went on to collect first-class honours at Oxford aged 13. Another degree, her doctorate were won before her 16th birthday.

After teaching in Harv and the University of Michigan, Ms Lawrence went on to search "knot theory" at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques at Bures-Yvette, near Paris.

Harry, her father - of her father's figure of either session or parental devotion is still accompanying his prize daughter everywhere.

After her A-level results, she is still a rising star in the world of the fast-track academic. Ruth's sister, Rebecca, was equally precocious. Coaxed by her mother, she too had early top-grade maths certificate at 11. But bot-housing and the world of the fast-track academic were not her choice.

She now works as a pharmacist at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

The poet TS Eliot took a wider and more pragmatic view. Success, he said, was relative: it depended "on what we can make of the mess we have made of things".

The one-day-a-week job that costs the taxpayer  
£92,305 a year and achieves precisely nothingANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

The government-appointed Commissioner for Protection against Unlawful Industrial Action, who cost the taxpayer £92,303 last year, was unable to help any of the three people who asked for her assistance.

According to official accounts presented to Parliament last week, the commissioner, Gill Rowlands, was paid an annual salary of £13,992 before she stepped down from her one-day-a-week post last May.

But she received a further £28,015 for her other part-time job - which she conducted from the same Warrington offices - as Commissioner for the Rights of Trade Union Members, for two days a week.

Perhaps in recognition of the productivity of the double-headed commissioner, Ms Rowlands' replacement in both posts

- the former chief executive of West Glamorgan council, Gerry Corless - has been put on a total salary of £35,000, a cut from her pay rate of more than 16 per cent.

In her role as Commissioner for the Rights of Trade Union Members, which cost the taxpayer a total £336,646, Ms Rowlands was able to offer concrete assistance to just eight applicants in the year to last April.

For an overall cost of more than £400,000 for the two commissions, each successfully completed case therefore cost the Exchequer about £50,000.

But because Ms Rowlands was doing what Parliament had asked her to do under the terms of the Employment Act 1988, and the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, Sir John Bourn, could hardly complain about a

gross waste of resources in accounts published last week.

Ms Rowlands conceded in her last annual report as Commissioner for Protection against Unlawful Industrial Action: "As in previous years, and as far as I am aware, there have been few, if any, instances of unions becoming involved in unlawfully organised industrial action."

However, she then added: "If this is the case, it is my view that the current industrial relations legislation and my role within that legislation are proving to be effective deterrents."

According to her report, "Three formal applications for assistance have been received during the reporting year. None of the applications fell within the scope of her powers."

Perhaps anticipating criticism, Ms Rowlands also said: "The real value of my office is apparent when one considers the potential financial and per-

sonal cost of a one-day strike at national level by comparison with the annual budget of my office."

As for her other role, as Commissioner for the Rights of Trade Union Members, Ms Rowlands prefers to concentrate on the number of enquiries that her office has dealt with over the year - more than a thousand - rather than the actual cases involving material assistance in court proceedings.

Ms Rowlands said: "I would prefer union members to settle their differences with their unions through internal procedures. When this occurs, because of the deterrent factor of my office, or when the matter is resolved because I have informed the member that I will not assist unless internal procedures to resolve the issue have been exhausted, I consider it a success for this office."

In her valedictory report on the year's work, Ms Rowlands said: "During the year, there has been a wide range of complaints, including those relating to removal from office contrary to rule, failure to allow access to accounting records, and breaches of rules relating to disciplinary proceedings."

"Many people have also contacted my office assuming that I can investigate complaints on their behalf and referring to me as the union ombudsman. I have made the nature of my role clear to them: that I have neither the power to investigate nor to provide advice."

Close reading of the account of the commissioner's "caseload activity", shows only eight cases "successfully resolved" with her help.

"Following the grant of assistance, the commissioner withdrew support from four applicants; eight applicants failed to progress their applications after initial contact with the office; twenty-two applications were found to be outside the scope of the commissioner's powers... The remaining forty-eight (although within the scope of the commissioner's power to grant assistance) were not assisted."



Gill Rowlands: 'Many people have contacted my office... I have neither the power to investigate nor to provide advice'

French francs come  
freely, just for one day

MICHAEL STREETER

The prospect of an end to commission for holiday currency moved a step closer today with Thomas Cook changing sterling into French francs for no charge.

The offer for holidaymakers is for today only but the company is considering longer commission "amnesties" on the most popular foreign currencies next year.

A spokesman for Thomas Cook, which controls about a quarter of the multi-million-pound high-street business and has 600 shops and bureaux de change, said a pilot scheme with Spanish pesetas earlier this year had been "extremely successful".

Nick Agarwal, the company's public relations manager, said: "We found that the trial with

pesetas generated a lot of interest and from our point of view this kind of offer can bring in other business."

He said the company was actively considering bringing in the scheme on a more permanent basis for travellers next year, though the free service would probably be restricted to the larger-volume currencies such as francs and pesetas. The company's normal commission is 1 per cent.

The pesetas offer in June boosted orders and purchases by more than 500 per cent and Thomas Cook hopes its offer on francs, the second most popular holiday currency, will have a similar impact. The deal applies in cash transactions only and is limited to a maximum of £2,000 on any one deal.

Lindsey Allardice, Thomas Cook's foreign exchange marketing manager, said: "If you are off to France this summer, make sure you get your currency now. Anyone crossing the Channel this summer would be mad to miss out on a currency deal as crazy as this."

The offer is a boost for tourists at the end of a week when it emerged that at least one major holiday tour operator, Airtours, is to increase the price of some of its brochure holidays, by up to £30 a time.

That move was condemned by consumer groups yesterday, who said they were considering whether to make a legal challenge.

A Consumers' Association spokeswoman said that it was an offence for companies to give "inaccurate or misleading" prices in brochures.

Harry, her father - of her father's figure of either session or parental devotion is still accompanying his prize daughter everywhere.

After her A-level results, she is still a rising star in the world of the fast-track academic. Ruth's sister, Rebecca, was equally precocious. Coaxed by her mother, she too had early top-grade maths certificate at 11. But bot-housing and the world of the fast-track academic were not her choice.

She now works as a pharmacist at Charing Cross Hospital in London.

The poet TS Eliot took a wider and more pragmatic view. Success, he said, was relative: it depended "on what we can make of the mess we have made of things".

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## Prescott delights left and right

ANTHONY BEVINS  
Political Editor

Labour's high command yesterday backed away from open conflict with John Prescott following yesterday's *Independent* interview on the substance and style of New Labour change.

But the waves created by the deputy leader's forthright language - confirming that lots of MPs voted for shadow cabinet candidates "they couldn't stomach" - were welcomed by many traditionalist MPs who were content with Mr Prescott's "boat-rocking" protest.

A significant proportion of MPs, perhaps even a silent majority, share the deputy leader's view that Mr Blair has pushed party and policy change to the limits of endurance.

They are willing to suffer in

silence in the interests of unity, but that does not mean they like it, and the row over Harriet Harman's choice of grammar school for her son showed that there are limits to their patience.

Pouring oil on the troubled waters created by Mr Prescott, a leadership spokesman said: "Tony Blair himself has frequently spoken of the inevitable impact of modernisation on some in the party."

"The important point is that Labour is stronger, fitter, more democratic and more united and self-disciplined as a result of the changes which, on every occasion a vote has been taken, have been overwhelmingly endorsed by the membership."

But Mr Prescott's mainstream point appeared to be underlined by Doug Hoyle, chairman of the Parliamentary

Labour Party, who said that while colleagues had displayed unity by voting for the shadow cabinet as a whole, that might have included backing some candidates they did not like.

That element of the Prescott interview was belatedly picked up by Defence Secretary Michael Portillo last night. He said: "It is an amazing state of affairs when you have a deputy leader of the Labour Party admitting that they have voted for fellow colleagues whom they cannot stand."

"Why, then, should they expect the British people to vote for those whom even they cannot stand?"

Predictably, a number of "likely suspect" Labour MPs exploited Mr Prescott's remarks for their own critical purposes. Alan Simpson, chairman of

the left-wing Campaign Group of MPs, warned that Labour's popularity would be short-lived if it tilted itself to Tory policies.

"The party would do well to heed what John Prescott is saying. We have the same backroom approach to fighting the next election as we had towards the last one."

"There's a perception we are trying to lie ourselves in very closely to where the Conservatives are in the hope we can just steal a march by cleverness."

"That didn't serve us well in the last two elections and we ought to be asking whether that is going to fare any better for the coming one."

"What Labour will discover very quickly is that if we change position without having a different agenda, that popularity is a short-lived one."

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# Hunstanton's biggest ever birthday party

Norfolk's most genteel resort is 150 years old this summer — and in the best of health. By Bob Carter

The man outside Woolworths was whistling "Suicide is Painless". Just round the corner a man with a microphone addressed a dozen, mostly elderly, people in the garden of the church. "I used to gamble. Every time I came on holiday I had to go in the arcade and spend a pound. It's easily done in Hunstanton. A pound would give you 50 goes at the tuppenny falls or buy a cheap tray in the shop proclaiming "Don't Ask — It's a £2".

On a cloudy, close August Sunday, Hunstanton is preparing for its biggest-ever party. There's a jazz band on the new bandstand on the green and a feel-good smattering of "no vacancies" signs in guesthouse windows. The resort of Hunstanton is 150 years old this summer and in the rudest of health — in a genteel sort of way.

A century-and-a-half ago there was none of this high excitement on top of the cliffs lining the top left-hand corner of Norfolk — just a small village where smugglers and customs officers occasionally fired sea-rusty muskets at one another, consigning the casualties to a corner of Saint Mary's churchyard, where they lie to this day.

Across the other side of the churchyard, in their family plot, lie the le Stranges, the family largely responsible for the Hunstanton of today and whose memory will be conjured up again this weekend when the birthday party gets into full swing.

In 1846, Henry Styleman le Strange, designer of the nave of Ely cathedral — and lord of the manor of this part of Norfolk — saw the business opportunities offered by the trend for days out and holidays at the seaside and built, a respectable distance away from the family seat, the New Inn, now the Golden Lion Hotel.

Even today Hunstanton tries to portray itself as a cut above the other resorts. And yes, it does seem different — strange, as in le Strange. Where other resorts have donkeys, Hunstanton offers pony rides. No motorboats here for trips round the bay; instead you take a ride along the sands in a wartime landing craft which then careers into the waves for a truly amphibian experience.

They'll tell you in the tourist information office that it's a quieter, more family-oriented place than the noisy commercialism of Cromer or even, God forbid, the flashy modernism of Great Yarmouth.

But it does not do to compare these places. Hunstanton — the Hunstanton of holidaymakers and not the old Hunstanton that lies quaintly rustic a mile or so up the coast — still has that essentially temporary feel, not helped by plenty of "to let" and "for sale" signs which bear witness to the hard times that England's East Coast seaside resorts have faced.

The past and the present are essentially separate and though the old church up the road was begun in the 14th century, the idea of continuity seems to hang on two or three generations of the same family, using the same caravan year after year.

Tomorrow these Hunstanton regulars can join in the party, watch the raft race or the aerobatics, hear the big band, eat the cake and "ooh" and "aah" at the fireworks reflected in the calm waters of The Wash.



But it is hard to imagine the holidaymakers snapping up a Hunstanton souvenir sketchbook. The birthday porcelain, meanwhile, seems more designed for the hardy band who live here all year round, as an affirmation of self, an attempt to convince them of the town's permanence and importance. After all the setbacks, they are still here.

They looked the other way when H G Wells and Rebecca West set up home here in 1914. They struggled on when the Mikado Concert Hall burnt down in 1922, and shrugged off the pier fire in 1939. They soldiered on when the US Air Force at nearby Sculthorpe declared the Cold War at a close and returned to America, taking away a lifeline almost as important as the railway which closed in 1969. And even the disappearance of the pier, in a storm in 1978, failed to finish them off.

So they have earned their celebration and they may just be able to do it again at some date in the future, despite its reliance on the beach huckster-and-spade-holiday. Hunstanton is branching out. It is as if there's a ripple effect gently washing over the town from the villages further east: Titchwell, Weybourne, the Burnhams and Brancaster, villages that at the weekend echo to stockbroker accents and 4x4 engines.

For walkers, birdwatchers, cyclists and horsemen and women who can't afford the cottage on the marsh, miles from anywhere, Hunstanton offers a much cheaper alternative.

It stands at the junction of the Peddars' Way and the Norfolk Coastal Path, both established long-distance footpaths. One of the most popular lists asked for by the tourist bureau is that of the eight local stables. Birdwatchers, meanwhile, fill up the guesthouse beds at either end of the summer — from Hunstanton you can spend a week at bird reserves around the coast and never visit the same one twice.

So there, in the greenish leisure boom to come, lies the future, if not the spirit of Hunstanton. That still eludes the arcades, the Sealife Centre, and the Oasis Leisure Centre, which boasts a swimming pool just yards from the real waves. Nor is the true spirit of Hunstanton with the church revivals, the acres of caravans or the lone whistler outside Woolworths. The spirit of a resort like this will always be just beyond the sea wall where the summer-tamed tides of The Wash deposit acres of sand. A gleaming strand which every year transforms streetwise teenagers into children again, digging round the rock pools, building dams and reservoirs and waving crabs at tearful sisters.

You might knock it, you might jet half way round the world to escape it, but there's nothing that compares to a day on the beach, a cheese sandwich (with real sand) and dinner from the chip shop. And so long as Hunstanton remembers this, the town should have many happy returns of the day.



A generation enjoys the old-fashioned charms of Hunstanton beach

Photographs: Keith Dobney

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## something to declare

### A likely story

'New British Airways route creates £260 million and over 3,500 new jobs in the first year for Phoenix, Arizona' — City of Phoenix press release

The Arizona state capital is such a go-ahead place that city officials can already be precise about the impact of BA's new route from Gatwick, even though it began only in July. The daily DC-10 holds 271 passengers, of whom about half will stay on the plane as far as San Diego. So, assuming full loads throughout the year, 50,000 passengers will take the new flight. By the time they get to Phoenix, they will each have created more than £3,400 in wealth — about 10 times the lowest fare. On this basis, any large American city would do well to start a new route to London and pay everyone to travel on it. Or, at least, to write absurd press releases about it.

### UK DEPARTURES

Cheap day trips by rail to and from London are being heavily promoted by train operators in the Midlands and Yorkshire. The East Coast Main Line (0345 225225) offers a day trip to London King's Cross from Leeds for £20 or from York for £25; the same prices apply for travellers from London to Yorkshire. You must book by 2pm on the day before you travel, and use specified trains.

Chiltern Railways (0990 165165) is offering £20 day tickets on the line between Marylebone and Birmingham Snow Hill. The journey takes about 30 minutes longer than from Euston, but saves £35 compared with the peak fare from there. From Warwick and Leamington Spa, the company will throw in a London Travelcard with the £20 day return to London.

The best deal of all is on Midland Mainline from Sheffield to St Pancras. The company is selling two, three or four seats for a total of £29, reducing the price of a day trip to as little as £7.25 per person (if four people travel together), compared with the standard "open" fare of up to £78. You must book three days in advance at Sheffield station, or five days ahead on 0990 125240. The offer does not apply on Saturdays, nor for journeys from London.

### Trouble spots

Foreign Office advice about potential disaster areas

**Canada:** heavy flooding in the Saguenay-Lac St Jean region, Quebec. Communications are restored in most areas.

**Montserrat:** hurricane season from now until the end of October. Volcanic activity in the south, including the capital, Plymouth. Avoid that area.

### Visitors' book

Mrs Williams's B&B, Porthmadog, Gwynedd

Wonderful bed. After this I want flannel sheets for the rest of my life — Jan-Olof Strindlund, Sweden.

Pink dreams in a pink room — Françoise Swi-chocka-Leonard.

**Ukraine:** diphtheria epidemic in parts of the country. Consult your GP about immunisation and other precautions.

**Turkey:** forest fires in the Marmaris, Datca, Mugla and Dalaman areas. Roads are open but there may be some delays and temporary closures.

**Bangladesh:** occasional floods. Check with local police that roads are open.

For more information call the Foreign Office on 0171-238 5403. FO travel advice is displayed on Coefax, page 364 onwards, and can be accessed on the Internet on <http://www.fco.gov.uk>.

### Bargain of the week

The two shortest international air routes from London are to Antwerp and Brussels in Belgium, and these are the two served by the only unlimited travel commuter ticket. Sabena (0181-780 1444) sells unlimited trips within a month to either city from Heathrow and London City for a flat fee of £599 — apart from the troublesome tax of £10.40 per trip. Should you wish to make the most of it, try travelling to Antwerp twice a day for a month, with a day off on Saturdays. You'll end up spending almost £500 on tax — but will accrue 38,400 frequent flyer miles in the process.

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# Sugar and spice and all things nice

Simon Calder visits Zanzibar, where gentle people go about their modest business — and moderation is the key

The interest value of any atlas declines quickly once you reach the gazetteer. But the butt-end of the alphabet is enlivened by three sharp syllables: Zan-zi-bar, so evocative a name that a dowdy old south-London pub has just changed its name from St Georges Tavern to Bar Zanzibar. The name belongs to an island that is well south even of Croydon. And it (the island, not the pub) is perhaps the most entrancing place in the book.

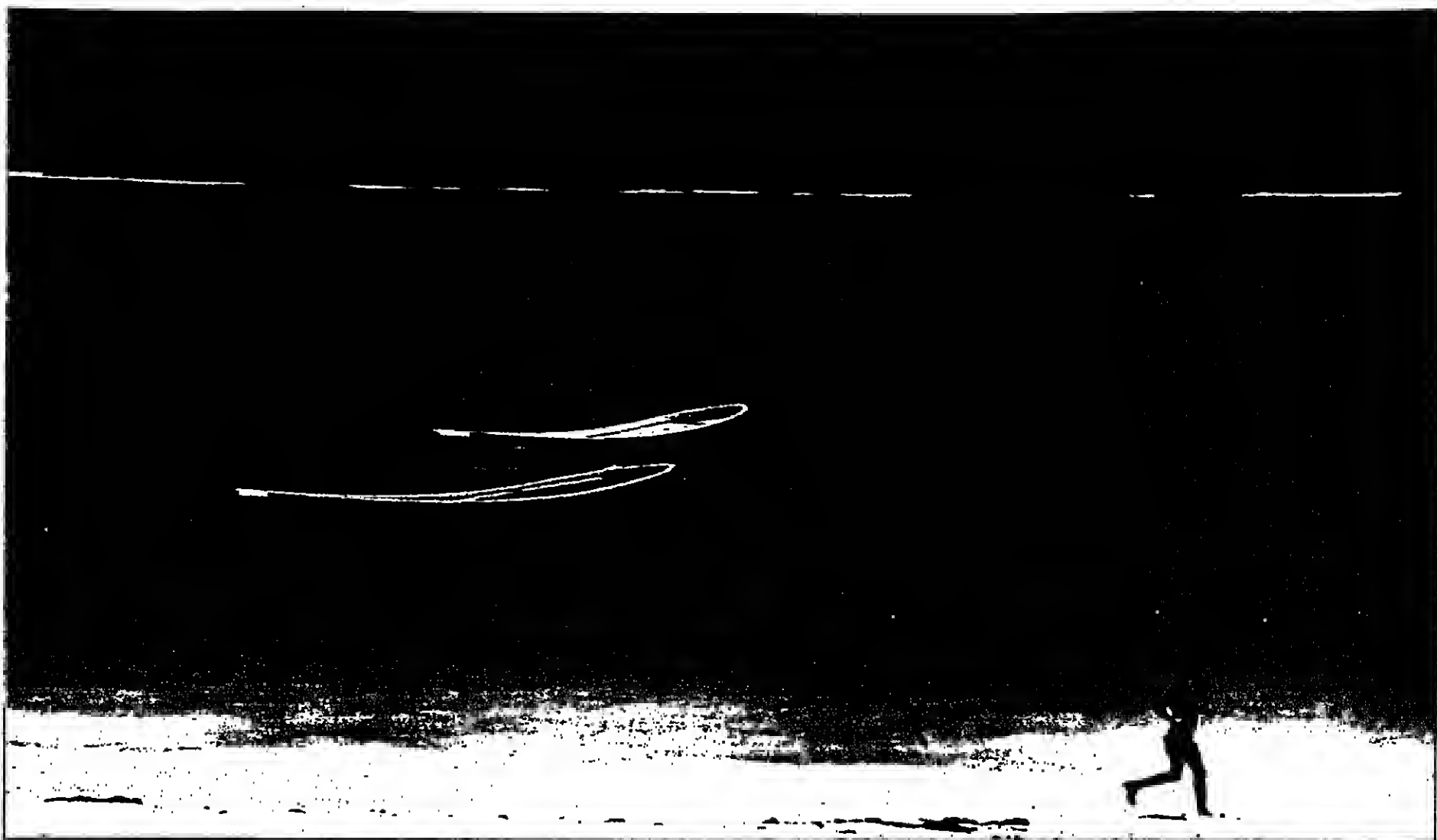
All your desert-island fantasies come true as you approach Zanzibar. Indeed, all the fantasies you ever had about travel suddenly crowd around. The sea is preposterously aquamarine, the sand implausibly golden and the airport impossibly empty. Check the map in the flight magazine to make sure that you are not dreaming, and that there is indeed an island the size of the Isle of Man bolted on to the right-hand-side of East Africa — close enough to benefit from the richness of the continent and its people, far enough to have been regarded as a safe staging post by early colonists.

An empire was hardly worthy of the name if Zanzibar was not included as a conquest on the Imperial bedpost. Persians and Portuguese, Indians and Arabs all took turns at controlling the 20-by-50-mile patch of land poking out of the Indian Ocean. It was the Arabs who endowed the place with its sense of dreamy intoxication by starting the spice industry and bestowing the inevitable cliché of the Spice Island, assiduously milked by the tourist board.

Still, if your home smells as headily sweet as this, then you can forgive the marketing people anything. I visited Mr Madawa, a spice merchant who gives hands-on explanations of the wondrous fumes that waft randomly around the islands. As he slices a sliver of bark, the scent splashes deliciously into the heavy noon air. Then he takes you and a handful of aromas back to his modest home to take apart any preconceptions you may have about the unsophistication of African food. Lunch is labour-intensive, but then Mr Madawa has four wives. His team of spouses (or should that be "spice") conjure magical dishes from an island where few tricks are needed to grow effusive quantities of exotic tropical crops.

Mr Madawa has a plurality of wives because the brand of Islam that prevails on Zanzibar permits polygamy. Much of the social structure — as well as architecture — was imported from the most easterly Gulf state, Oman, in the last century. At one point, the Omani court moved 2,000 miles south to take advantage of the benign terrain and benevolent society.

British hegemony soon prevailed, adding another layer to the cultural veneer that makes Zanzibar so confusing. To confound yourself utterly, rent a bicycle from the thoroughly



"All your desert-island fantasies come true as you approach Zanzibar"

Photograph: Robert Harding Picture Library

African market. It will probably be a Raleigh, based on an original idea from Nottingham. The plans, though, were long ago taken to India, where the upstanding Roadster flourished. This sturdy machine will take you through a maze of lanes as intricate as any Arab souk, until you reach the bleak block of flats where Freddie Mercury grew up.

The late, great Queen singer was born to a Shirazi family, of Iranian descent. Freddie Mercury was blessed with an upbringing on an island of plenty, where your neighbour was as likely to hail from Delhi as Dar Es Salaam. People go gently

about their modest business in a climate where moderation is the key. Stress is merely something you put on the first syllable of Stone Town, the closest thing to a capital that Zanzibar possesses. As a shambles it is superlative, layer upon layer of humanity leaving its languid mark on the paraphernalia of government. The House of Wonders was the venue for the shortest war in history 100 years ago, when the British put down a little local difficulty in a little over half an hour. Now the House is a doddery old pile of quasi-Imperial clutter that looks as if it was under siege for 58 years, not minutes.

Most of Zanzibar is untroubled by urban life, and comprises a lolling landscape where Mr Madawa's spices vie for light with arrogant palms. If you scrounge up the page of the atlas which deals with land use — all dark greens and deep reds, vivid blues and sandy yellows — then smoothed it out, the rumpled result would resemble rural Zanzibar. That spectrum coalesces at a single point at the tip of the island: the beach at Nungwi, where a placid village peeps out from the palms at a mile of virgin sand. The alphabet ends here — as does the traveller's quest for perfection.

You can reach Zanzibar via Muscat on Gulf Air, for around £500 through discount agents; or arrive by boat from Dar Es Salaam, having flown there on a cut-price ticket on an airline such as Ethiopian Airways for about £450 return; or take a cheap charter to Mombasa, connecting there with the Kenya Airways shuttle to Zanzibar. You will need a Tanzanian visa, obtainable relatively painlessly from the Tanzanian High Commission (0171-499 8951). The most sensible guide book is the Bradt Guide to Zanzibar by David Else, price £7.99.

## Was it just a silly season wind-up?

Continuing our monthly series, Jeremy Skidmore answers readers' travel queries

I understand the Greek government has given tour operators a rebate on airport tax — is that going to mean lower prices for packages next summer?

Not necessarily. The Greek government is only offering the rebate, which amounts to around £3.60 per passenger on departures from Greek airports, up to December 31. We have not been given any indication yet whether it will be continued into 1997. The Greek government has to make its mind up soon if prices for 1997 are going to come down. Ironically the current rebate is great news for operators, but won't benefit any customers going to Greece this year. The rebate comes far too late to be passed on to holidaymakers in any brochures and will just go straight into the pockets of the tour operators.

The ideal time to book summer holidays has been much discussed, but what about winter sports?

The winter brochures are already out and are booking well. My advice to anyone who wants a winter holiday, particularly skiing, is to book sooner rather than later because accommodation in some resorts is getting in short supply. Skiers tend to be sophisticated holidaymakers who know exactly which hotel and resort they want and book up when the brochures come out.

I've heard that travel agency staff are offered all kinds of bribes for booking clients with certain operators. How can I be sure of being offered what's right for me?

Some agencies are owned by tour operators and have, in the past, been given cash incentives to push the products of their parent companies. But this does not mean you will be sold something that is wrong for you. The two biggest operators, Thomson and Airtours, own the two largest travel agencies, Lunn Poly and Going Places respectively. Lunn Poly and Going Places make

it clear that they recommend their own group's products but also promote a wide range of other companies and pledge not to sell an unsuitable holiday to their customers. This is probably a fair statement because the range of products in their shops is so wide that they can cater for most tastes. Elsewhere, all travel agents negotiate deals with certain tour operators. Even independent agents, which tend to sell a wider range of holidays than the multiples, cannot stock all the holidays on the market and are likely to have special deals with certain operators.

I've heard there's a new 18-30 airline but my travel agent doesn't know anything about it. Was it just a silly season wind-up?

There is a new airline being launched in April 1997 by Flying Colours, the company which owns the youth specialist Club 18-30. The airline has been called, not surprisingly, Flying Colours Airlines and a lot of holidaymakers who travel with Club 18-30 next year will find

themselves on the airline. Your travel agent may not know anything about the airline because it is not operating until next year, but the 1997 brochures are out and it is possible to make bookings now for next year.

I booked my winter cruise with Lunn Poly Direct to Coventry. I just learnt the office has been closed down. What happens next?

Firstly, don't worry. Lunn Poly has not gone bust and you will still be able to go on your winter cruise. To complement its shops, Lunn Poly had an office in Coventry which sold direct to the public over the telephone. Lunn Poly decided to close the Coventry office and concentrate sales through its shops.

If you have any queries about your cruise you can either go into a Lunn Poly shop and discuss them with a member of staff, or contact the retailer at its head office, Lunn Poly House, Clarendon Avenue, Leamington Spa, CV32 5PS.

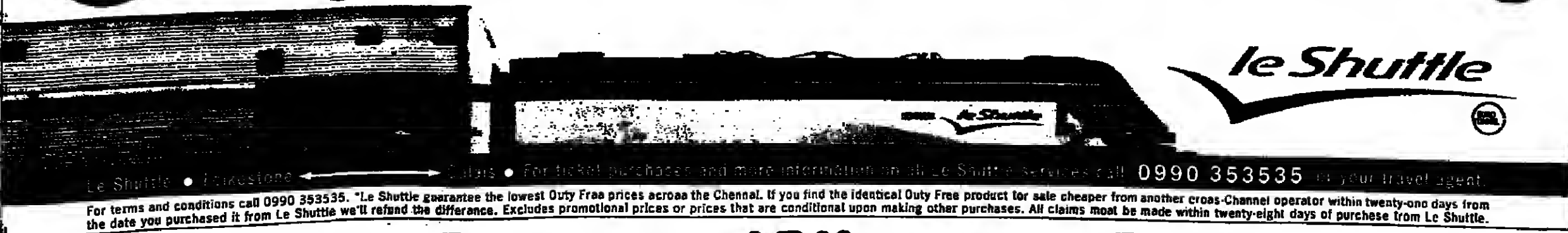
## WORLD DEPARTURES

Coast-to-coast across America. Now costs £149 one-way — if you are prepared to pause in Colorado Springs. This Rocky Mountain city is the hub for Western Pacific, a small airline that flies from Newark and Washington DC to six West Coast cities — including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. There are no advance purchase rules, and you may spend anything from 40 minutes to a year en route in Colorado Springs. Book on 01444 450311 or through an agent; some may agree to split the 15 per cent commission with you, cutting the fare to £139.

Are you a healthy adult, living in Aor around London, and want to do your bit to help the cause of travel medicine? If so, the Academic Unit of Travel Medicine and Vaccines wants to hear from you. The unit, based at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, is testing the effectiveness of a new Yellow Fever vaccine. In return for taking part in the programme, you get a free jab and a Certificate of Immunisation which is valid for 10 years. Call 0171-830 2999 if you meet the criteria — and, most important of all, have never had the Yellow Fever vaccine before.

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## travel

## Flights and your rights

Following last week's article on airline delay, barrister Alan Matthews suggests that compensation could be due

Wendy Berliner's 53-hour delay on an Airtours flight back from Florida was described in these pages last week. Simon Calder's advice on what compensation she could expect was, as we like to say in my profession "with the greatest of respect", questionable. While Mr Calder's suggestion that she can do no more than claim on her insurance will please the travel industry, it does overlook legal avenues that may be open to her. My feeling is that if Ms Berliner and her fellow sufferers on that flight did claim against the airline they, like those on the equally disastrous Laker flight, might have a chance of obtaining damages.

Airtours' so-called "Fair Trading Agreement" contains an assertion that the company "cannot accept liability for any payment incurred... nor for any time lost on your holiday". Where someone has cut a coupon out of a brochure containing such conditions and booked for the flight that way, the clause will be part of that contract. However many, if not most, flights are booked and paid for over the telephone. A typical transaction will not involve any more than a discussion of the route, price and flight times. Travel agents seldom, if ever, say "and you accept the term that says you can't have any compensation if things go wrong" or even "the booking is subject to the airline's standard terms".

Once the customer has committed himself to paying for the flight the contract is complete and the airline cannot unilaterally introduce further terms, any more than the customer can. Even for those people who did book in writing all may not be lost. The Unfair Terms in Consumer Contract Regulations, effective from 1995, prevent businesses from relying on unfair exemption clauses. These regulations have yet to be tested in the higher courts, but they seem designed to cover blanket statements disclaiming liability, such as the one that appears in Airtours' brochure. The Office of Fair Trading also has a power to seek a court order that such a clause is unlawful.

Some help for travellers comes from the Warsaw Convention, which governs international air traffic. Article 19 makes airlines liable for delay. Airlines try to counter this by claiming that their timetables do not constitute contractual terms.

If there were delays that were totally beyond the airline's control, such as fog, a claim for compensation would almost certainly fail. Mechanical faults, which caused Ms Berliner's delay, do not fall into this category.

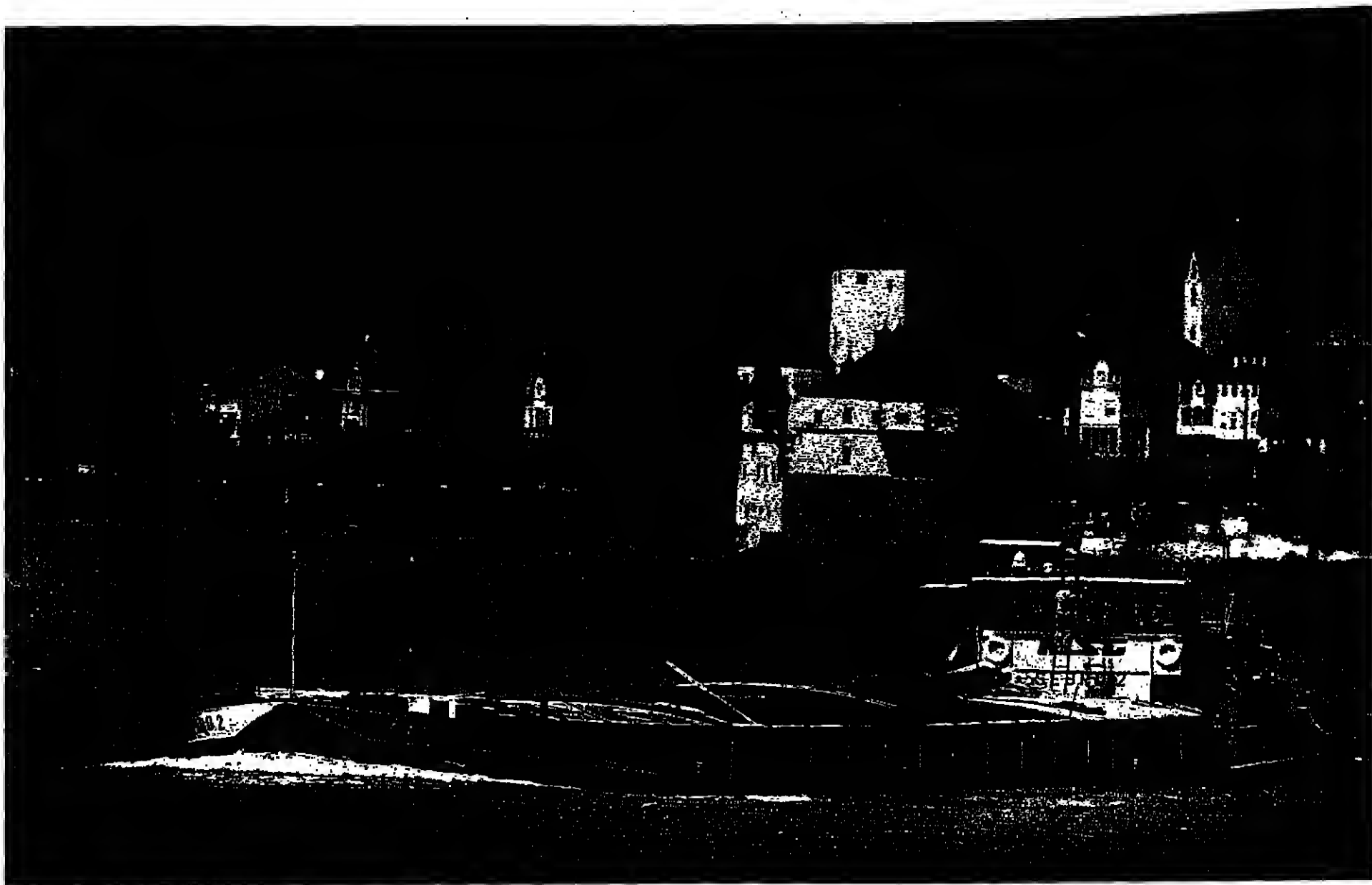
In a small claims court, where people are encouraged to present their own cases rather than instruct lawyers, I suspect a district judge would be keener to see that people receive fair compensation than to analyse the small print of either a brochure or the Warsaw Convention.

However, I equally suspect that if people like Ms Berliner showed that they were serious about taking action, Airtours would come up with a sensible offer of compensation. Both Airtours and Laker might be prepared to pay up to avoid the bad publicity and administrative disruption of defending hundreds of small claims.



## A relentlessly and uproariously convivial welcome

'I was eighteen years old, very easily impressed and took myself extremely seriously. During that summer I learnt seven new words for drunkenness'. Linda Cookson remembers Germany in 1973



The Rhineland, where wine villages look sleepy by day only because they are snoozing off their hangovers

Photograph: Brian Harris

August 1973. Gary Glitter was "Leader of the Gang" at the top of the British charts. The Watergate scandal was breaking. And I and my boyfriend of the time were spending the whole of that summer in Germany together, equipped with a Collins Mini Gem Deutsch-English dictionary and a supply of tinned corned beef (in case we didn't like the food). We were doing a holiday job before going to college in October and it was the first time I had ever been out of the country. I was 18 years old, very easily impressed and took myself extremely seriously. The perfect profile for the innocent abroad.

We were working as translators for a wine company in the Rhineland. The hotelling plant and company offices were in Burg Layen, a small village nestled snugly amid the ranks of vine terraces built back from the river Nahe. The area was filled with timbered, white-walled houses bearing paintings of bunches of grapes and beaming countrywomen (which I considered hugely tasteful at the time). And the air was sweet with alcohol. During that summer in Germany I learned seven new words for varieties of drunkenness. Sadly for my liver, it marked the beginning of the end

of my hitherto puritanical aversion to wine-drinking.

Our job included translating promotional material. I learned all about the differences between Spätlese and Auslese, and between Beerenauslese and Trockenbeerenauslese - right through to defining the tooth-rotting sweetness of Eiswein. I learned to write things like "with an elegant bouquet" without laughing. But, above all, I got to grips with the important business of wine-sampling.

The neighbourhood was relentlessly and uproariously convivial. From village to village there were wine festivals every weekend. There were festivals to say an emotional farewell to the last vintage and to empty the barrels in readiness for the next. There were festivals to try out the new vintage, and compare it enthusiastically with those of previous years. And then there were the local "Kirmes" festivals - a particularly riotous set of celebrations, held in honour of each village's special saint. It was, if only in theory, a strongly Catholic area.

I soon learned that Rhineland wine villages looked sleepy by day only, because they were snoozing off their hangovers. Come nightfall, it would always be party time again. Whole villages were transformed into gypsy camps,

blazing with fairy lights and crammed with side-shows, food stalls and a forest of beer and wine tents. Early on in the summer, at one of those food stalls, I had a further fatal taste of corruption - a paper tray of Currywurst (German sausage smothered in raw curry powder and a dollop of ketchup), which I embraced as the height of sophistication and attempted to reproduce subsequently at many a dinner party back home.

The corned beef never got eaten. We were too overwhelmed by hospitality, as people bombarded us with invitations to suppers of Sauerbraten (a delicious regional pot roast) and Streuselkuchen (a sort of cherry crumble cake). It was as a guest at one of those suppers that I ate my very first frozen pizza. It took a few more years before the UK caught on to that particular treat.

We were a local curiosity. Everybody in the village seemed to know about us - something I put down to personal charisma at the time. In truth, I now realise, we were unmissable: my boyfriend with his lion's mane of red hair and penchant for purple loons, myself in full and flowing pre-Raphaelite regalia topped and tailed with a cowboy hat and a pair of desert boots. At this point, the mini-skirt - by then

definitely démodé hack in England - had only just hit the Rhineland.

When I think back to that summer I remember it with huge affection. I remember the evening of our very first day at work, when the company boss took us to a Carole King concert in Frankfurt and we all held up lighted matches and sang "You Got a Friend". I remember betting on a horse at Baden-Baden on the assumption that age was a sign of experience, and being dumbfounded when my nag hobbled home last. I remember countless excursions, courtesy of workmates and their families, to mountains and castles and riverside beauty spots.

It was a great time. I arrived back in England in early October with a wine enthusiasm, a Currywurst addiction and a cigarette habit (born - I'm ashamed to say - of the discovery that you could put British 5p coins into the 1DM slot of German cigarette machines). I also had an embarrassingly large stash of Deutschmarks. We had been ludicrously well paid by English standards and no one had allowed us to spend any money. I bought the latest Leonard Cohen album, a copy of *The Little Prince* and a new pair of desert boots, and got ready for the business of being a student.

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SIMON CALDER

## The trouble with Footprints

Take only photographs, leave only footprints" is the sensitive traveller's motto. So 10 years ago, a small Scottish company decided "Footprint" would make an excellent name for a series of maps and guides. The series is now flourishing, and Footprint publishes the guides for the Sustrans National Cycle Network. A story of small business makes good. Until this year, when someone else decided that "Footprint" would make a good imprint. Trade & Travel, publisher of the South American Handbook, has been looking for a change of image. James Dawson, managing director of Trade & Travel, said he wanted his series of guides to move "from being a low-profile, fringe series, to one at the heart of the guidebook business". Accordingly, his company is re-branding its series of travel guides as Footprint Handbooks. From now on, two sets of Footprints are vying for space on the bookshelves.

"We can't stop them," says Patrick Blashill, one of the partners of the original Footprint. "Although we registered the name with the Publishers' Association, this has no legal status. For that we'd need to register a trade mark which, for a small company like ours, would be enormously costly." Mr Blashill says the existence of two Footprint series "will lead to endless complications. When bookshops are asked to order Footprint guides, they won't know which company to deal with."

Mr Dawson disagrees: "We don't believe there will be any problems. These are two series which could not be more different in look or content, which sit on different shelves in the shops and serve different markets."

Following our tales last week about flight delays (see Flights and Your Rights, above), Peter May of St Albans writes with a tale of six hungry hours on the ground at Heathrow on a plane busily not flying to Bangkok. "Even so, the Thailand holiday was the most enjoyable I have ever had. I decided then always to go somewhere hot in February. But I now carry a bottle of mineral water and a pack of sandwiches on outbound long-haul flights, and have a meal in the airport on the inbound flight."

This proved of little help to Mr May in March this year, on a flight from Johannesburg to London on South African Airways. "We arrived over Heathrow on time at 7am, but were diverted to Manchester because of fog. We sat at Manchester awaiting refuelling and clearance for take-off. Unfortunately, the first slot was 15 minutes before the pilots' maximum hours were reached, so we were offloaded."

Things rapidly became worse, writes Mr May. "We had to wait 50 minutes before the right sized stairs could be found. Our baggage took a further two hours to be offloaded, and we - the economy classes - had then to wait for buses to take us to Heathrow. At Heathrow a rude traffic warden refused to let us disembark at the arrivals area, but made us go to departures - so we then had to struggle with our bags back to arrivals to get transport. We arrived 11 hours late, and all that time were served no food at all."

Diversion due to fog are unfortunately common, and Prestwick airport in Scotland was, indeed, designed with them in mind (it is rarely troubled by fog). But what is the

longest distance an airline has hussed passengers when flying has proved impractical? With the Channel Tunnel working, it is now theoretically possible for people to be sent overland from anywhere in Europe. And has re-routing ever proved beneficial? Presumably one or two of the passengers on Mr May's flight were actually heading for Manchester, and were therefore glad of the diversion.

On Thursday, Scotland's scenery began to brighten to the journey to work of London's commuters, as posters of the Highlands were introduced in train and tube stations. "Leaves you breathless", reads the slogan. "Rather like the air in Londono".

The London Tourist Board is upset at the slur, though I suspect the law would side with Scotland if a case ever came to court. The thought that this is the first round in a knocking campaign rather appeals. The Glasgow underground could be enlivened by a pictures of a monster-eyed hug, and the slogan "Hate to London". Scots would promptly add the caveat "only because the exhaust fumes have killed them all off".

The poorer parts of Edinburgh, where *Trainspotting* (the film about drug abuse) was shot, could trade insults with some of the dodgy estates in south London. Meanwhile the tourist boards in Wales and Northern Ireland would sit back and enjoy the spectacle, ready to pick up all the punters put off by advertising that seems dangerously akin to the present Tory poster campaign.

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# A healthy shade of green

Rose, Henry and Martin Village visit the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales

## The venue

There are begonias, nasturtiums and lobelia growing between the tracks of the water-balanced railway that takes you up to this hi-tech Shangri-La hanging steeply on a Welsh hillside.

So forget any preconceptions you may have about home-spun "alternatives". The Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT), now 21 years old, has come of age and is a sophisticated shade of green. It aims to show how today's good life can be comfortable and attractive as well as eco-friendly.

If anything, it is all too comfortable for the likes of some Greens, who have criticised it for not making a political challenge to mass consumerism. "Yet we are aiming to be the first step into the environmental movement for the general public who are not already committed Greenies," says Paul Allen, of the 30-strong CAT co-operative.

That this leading visitor centre entertains and educates around 1,000 people a day without drawing on the national grid or adding to our rubbish and sewage disposal problems, is testimony enough to a dream made real.

## The visitors

Martin Village, an art dealer and publisher, took his son Henry, 11, and daughter Rose, seven, to the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth, Wales.

Rose: "I thought the compost toilet was funny. It didn't flush with water, so after you'd been to the toilet you had to put a shovel of sawdust into it."

The Mole Hole was all dark, and it got darker and darker until it led into a whole room, and I thought it was horrible at the entrance. But the good thing was all the animals you could see inside the glass displays, which light up when you press a button.

I liked one windmill where you could stand on the base, and it went round and round with the wind and you went round, too.

I thought the pigs were disgusting, but I liked the goat. I stroked his nose and touched his horns. I fed lettuce to the chickens.

I went in a maze with questions about how you travel to the shops and when you go on buses and stuff like that. I touched the compost made of poo, and it didn't look like poo.

I saw a play all about a bear and a man who was cutting down trees. The woodcutter said he was doing it for us because we need wood to make things like pencils and paper - but the bear got angry. And afterwards we got a little sunflower seed and I am going to plant it in our garden when I get home."

Henry: "This place made me consider things I don't normally think about, like the way we pollute the world and what solar and wind energy could do to help us all in the future. If people could make cars run by solar-powered batteries, there would be less bad air and my asthma might be better."

The train ride at the start takes you up on to another level, and it feels really good and gets you going for what you are about to experience.

The pump where you get water was good; we would have to fill up 30 buckets each in one day to get all the water we use. It made me think that people in Africa must have a hard time getting water.

I hadn't heard of all the different herbs in the garden; I tasted ginger mint, marjoram, Greek basil. Some of them - like the bronze fennel - tasted a bit off.

I thought that what the compost does is good, but it's not a very nice smell or sight. The adventure playground is good because it's got different areas for people under five and over five.



Rose Village examines the compost at the Centre for Alternative Technology

Photograph: Steve Peak

Overall, I found it was much more interesting than a normal museum, because you are having fun and learning at the same time. But you can't see it all in one go; you have to go at least twice.

Martin: "As an urban dweller I'm aware that I behave to my environment like a spoilt kid, using things and throwing them away, and I'd like to change that. This place makes me think in a more mature way."

I feel inspired here; it fills me with fantasies of the possible, like constructing the self-build house. This place has been created out of a seriously unfriendly environment and it is now something of great beauty. That imparts a therapeutic atmosphere. I take away with me a feeling of optimism and some sense of the Green gadgetry - like photovoltaic cells - now available.

The ideas of the Sixties and Seventies, then considered to be way out, are real here and now. And this place presents them with panache. They have demonstrated what can be done on the micro level, but to tackle the macro you have to talk in terms of politics. I would strongly urge our Ministers for Transport, Energy and the Environment to come here and stay - for a week at least."

## The deal

The Centre for Alternative Technology is on the A487 north of Machynlleth, Powys, in Wales, and is open every day. Telephone: 01654 702400. Worldwide web site: <http://www.foc.co.uk/CAT>

Costs are "reasonable", Martin believes, at £13.50 for a family ticket, or £5.50 per adult and £2.50 per child

(under-fives get in free); the centre offers up to 10 per cent off the entry price if you arrive by rail. Food in the vegetarian restaurant ranges from £2 for a jacket potato and cheese, to around £3.50 for vegetable curry, ratatouille and rice or vegetable hake. Access for the disabled includes parking near the restaurant. Some areas are hard going for babies' buggies. The telephone box has a wind/solar-powered light. Residential courses on topics such as self-build homes and organic gardening take place all the year round. Toilets are clean and plentiful, some (including men's) with baby-changing facilities. Sewage is treated on site, mostly via reed beds; nutrients are reclaimed as compost. The waterless urinals use plant extracts to stay smell-free.

Brigid McConville

# When you're feeling a little 11-o'clockish

Tony Kelly picnics near the house at Pooh Corner in the Ashdown Forest

It's nearly 11 o'clock," said Maire. "Time for a little snacker of something." So Maire and Tony and Jacqueline and Lee and Fiona and James and Jane, who were all feeling a little 11-o'clockish, found a Thoughtful Spot in the forest where they sat eating honey sandwiches and looking for sticks for the game that Maire was going to teach them.

This was the Ashdown Forest in east Sussex, otherwise known as Pooh Country; and I had joined a group of Winnie-the-Pooh fans on a day's "explore" of the places where Christopher Robin and his friends used to play.

James Linehan (almost five) had brought his mother along to share the fun; the rest of us, to my surprise, were grown-ups. Lee Turtle and Jacqueline Abbot were New Zealanders working in London and hoping to relive childhood memories; Fiona Spandler was a Methodist minister whose interest in Pooh stems from a Winnie-the-Pooh society at college.

"You'd be amazed how widespread the interest is," said our guide, Maire McQueney, an energetic Irish-American who left the Bronx for Britain 24 years ago and now leads tours combining her two great loves, literature and walking. "People from Singapore will come all the way to England just for a Winnie-the-Pooh event."

We began in Hartfield, a Domesday village half way between East Grinstead and Tunbridge Wells. With the sun shining on its timber-framed houses, it looked the perfect postcard image of rural England. "For many Pooh fans around the world, Hartfield is England," said Maire. "It's the only place they ever see apart from London."

AA Milne had a house here, at Cotchford Farm; at weekends he went walking in the woods with his son Christopher Robin. Milne had already made his name in journalism and the theatre when he turned to writing children's stories in the Twenties, while his son was still a boy. From then on, Milne was known only for one thing; while Christopher Robin, who died in April this year, spent the rest of his life trying to live down his name. As for Winnie-the-Pooh, he was a Harrods teddy given to Christopher Robin on his first birthday and named



Playing Poohsticks in the Ashdown Forest

Photograph: Andrew Hasson

Winnie after a Canadian bear from Winnipeg in London Zoo.

The books are set in a real landscape - and Milne wove local history and wildlife

into his stories. Tigers and kangaroos in the forest may be a product of his imagination (like Pooh, they were based on Christopher Robin's own soft toys) but rabbits and owls

are real enough, and even Piglet was a descendant of the wild boars which Henry VIII used to hunt here. As for Eeyore, well, Christopher Robin did have a real grey donkey called Jessica, which he used to ride into Hartfield to buy sweets.

After our "little something," we headed off to search for Rabbit's Hole, where Pooh became stuck for an entire week after eating too much. James found a sandy bank with a hole in it; the rest of us tried hard to convince ourselves that this was the real thing.

Near here is Pooh Bridge, the setting for Pooh's invention of the game Poohsticks. The wooden bridge has been carefully restored but still looks just as it did in EH Shepherd's pictures of 1928. For most day-trippers, this is the limit of their Pooh experience. On the day I was there, Japanese tourists and parties of excited schoolchildren threw sticks into the water and eagerly snapped each other's pictures as we waited patiently for our turn to play.

After lunch it was time for another "expedition". First we came to the North Pole, where baby Roo learnt to swim and was rescued by Pooh with the "north pole" he had discovered. Then we climbed to Pooh Corner, where Eeyore lived in a house of sticks built by Piglet and Pooh.

Finally we reached Gills Lap (Galleon's Lap in the book) and a memorial stone to Milne and Shepherd, "who captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world". Above here, at the very top of the forest, is the enchanted place where Christopher Robin said good-bye to Pooh at the end of *The House at Pooh Corner*.

Maire McQueney's guided walks take place every Saturday in August. The morning walk leaves Hartfield war memorial at 10.05am and the afternoon walk leaves Piglet's car park on the B2026 at 2.30pm. Each walk costs £4.50 for adults, £1 for children. Details from Twentieth Century Walks (01273 607910). It is easy to get to Pooh Bridge independently, using a map bought from the Pooh Corner Shop on Hartfield High Street

A weekly round-up of summer outings for children

## 'ARE WE NEARLY THERE?'

On the trail of well-loved characters

Any fan of Wallace & Gromit will know that Wensleydale Cheese is Wallace's favourite. The Cheese Experience at the Wensleydale Creamery (01969 66766-4) in Hawes, North Yorkshire, is open from 10.30am to 3pm daily (gift shop open until 5pm). After a video show you can wander through the museum, see the cheese being made and fill up in the tasting room. The tour costs £2 for adults and £1.50 for children. Parking is free.

## Through the looking-glass

If you're on the trail of Alice in Wonderland, visit Oxford where the author Lewis Carroll spent his days in academia as Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. You may find Alice's Shop on St Aldates on the west side, but across the road is Christchurch College (01865 276150), where Dodgson studied. If you can make your way past the ranks of bulldogs (men in bowler hats, rather than canines), you will find it open to the public from 9am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and from 11.30pm to 6pm on Sundays. Entry costs £3 for adults, £2 for children and £6 for a family ticket. From here, wander down to the river, past a field of rare cattle, and stroll back via the Botanical Gardens.

## BeatrixPotterland

Fans of Mrs Tiggy Winkle and Peter Rabbit may like to visit BeatrixPotterland in Cumbria. If you're determined, or just very thin, you could squeeze your way into Hiltop in Ambleside (015394 36269), although at

this time of year the farmhouse where the author lived is crowded out with tourists. Or, for another cramped experience, you could cross the lake to the World of Beatrix Potter (015394 88444) at Bowness-on-Windermere. If you prefer to escape the hordes of Fkysy Bunny lovers and get a more realistic taste of old-fashioned life in the Lake District, take yourself off to Townend at Troutbeck (015394 32628), a farmhouse that has been owned by one family for 300 years and is now run by the National Trust. (You may also like to dip into the church nearby, where a large stained-glass window was crafted by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones while he was on holiday in the area.) Townend is open from 1pm to 5pm (last admission 4.30pm). Entry costs £2.60 for adults, £1.30 for children. National Trust members get in free.

A journey with Paddington In the paw prints of Paddington Bear is the London Toy and Model Museum (0171-402 5222) at Craven Hill near Paddington Station. There are five floors to explore, each of which is packed with exhibits and working models; children can also fill in worksheets and visit an activity room. Opening times are 10am to 5.30pm (last admission 4.30pm) Monday to Saturday, and from 11am to 5.30pm on Sundays and bank holidays. Adults £4.95, children £2.95 (under-fours free) and families £13.50.

Rhiannon Batten











Are the days of political instability, protectionism and hyper-inflation over? Alison Eadie considers the continent's emerging markets

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT**

صلى الله عليه وسلم



### Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
<b>Fixed rates</b>					
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.20 for 1 year	85	0.75%	1st 5 yrs: 7.04% of sum repaid
West Bromwich BS	0121 525 7070	6.55 to 1/11/99	85	£295	1st 6 yrs: 6% of advance
First Mortgage BS	0800 080088	7.40 to 1/8/01	90	£275	1st 1/8/02: 5% of advance
<b>Variable rates</b>					
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.95 for 1 year	90	—	1st 5 yrs: discount reclaimed
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.60% to 1/10/98	90	—	To 30/9/01: discount reclaimed
Abbey National	0800 555100	5.74 to 31/8/01	95	—	To 31/8/02: ind. determined
<b>First time buyers fixed rates</b>					
Bristol & West BS	0800 608088	0.95 to 30/6/97	90	£275	To 30/6/01: 3/5 rates interest
Market Harborough BS	01858 463244	4.49 to 1/7/98	90	£250	Unemployment ins.
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	7.49 to 1/8/01	95	£295	1st 6 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/7/97	90	—	To 30/6/01: discount reclaimed
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	4.24% to 1/8/99	95	£295	1st 7 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Halifax BS	0800 101110	5.43 to 30/9/01	90	—	To 30/9/03: 1-4% of advance

Telephone	APR	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)	Without insurance
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	13.90E	£112.86
Alliance & Leicester	0116 262 6262	14.80	£101.33
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.90	£114.93
Secured (second charge)			£115.82
Cydeale Bank	0800 240024	7.50	£3K - £15K
Royal Bank of Scotland	0131 523 7023	8.70	£2.5K-£100K
Barclays Bank	0800 000929	9.3/9.6	80% £10K-75K

Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Unauthorised % pm	APR
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.75	9.5
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Current	0.75	9.5
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.94	11.9

Telephone	Card Type	Min Income	Rate % pm	APR %	Annual Fee	Int. free period
<b>Standard</b>						
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.8958	11.20	nil
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.00	£12
People's Bank Com	0500 551055	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.13	14.40	nil
<b>Gold cards</b>						
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.4792	10.32	£120
Royal Bank of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05N	14.50N	£35
People's Bank Com	0500 551055	MasterCard/Visa	£20,000	1.13	14.40	nil

Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	APR	Payment by other methods % pm	APR
John Lewis	In store	—	1.39	18.00
Marks & Spencer	01244 681681	1.87	24.80	1.97
Sears	In store	1.94	25.90	2.20

APR Annualised percentage rate. B-C Buildings and Contents Insurance LTV Loan to value ASU Accident, sickness and unemployment  
E Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years.  
N Introductory rate for a limited period.  
All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01682 500677 15 August 1996

### Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>Instant Access</b>					
Portman BS	01202 252444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.50 Year
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Liquidity	Instant	£25,000	5.00 Year
Skipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	5.15 Year
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£50,000	5.75 Year

Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	First Class Access	Postal	£1,000	4.90 Year
Alliance & Leicester	0645 645660	Instant Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40 Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Access Postal	Postal	£10,000	5.55 Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Access Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.05 Year

Chelsea BS	0800 132351	Post-tel 20 Day	20 day P	£5,000	6.05 Year
Cheltenham & Gloucester	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£100	5.50 Year
First National BS	0800 558844	90 Day Notice	90 day P	£10,000	6.20 Year
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	Notice Interest	1 Yr Bond	£1,000	6.25 Year

Kleinwort Benson	01202 552404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.00 Month
Halifax BS	01422 353533	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10,000	4.00 Quarter
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£10,000	4.35 Year
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£25,000	4.65 Year

Chelsea BS	0800 272505	Fixed Rate Bond	1/8/97	£5,000	6.25F Year
Cheshire BS	0800 243278	Fixed Rate Bond	31/12/98	£5,000	6.75F Year
Stroud & Swindon BS	0345 252423	Fixed Rate Bond	1/7/99	£1,000	7.35F Year
Britannia BS	0800 132304	High Income Bond	1/10/2001	£50,000	7.75F Year

Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£8,575	7.50F Year
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£5,000	7.45F Year
Birmingham Midshires	0645 720721	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£1,000	7.00 Year
Cheltenham & Gloucester	0800 717505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£9,000	7.00 Year

Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	Fixed Rate TESSA	1 year	£5,000	4.60F Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007	Fixed Rate TESSA	2 years	£3,000	5.50F Year
Pinnacle Life	0800 638020	Fixed Rate TESSA	3 years	£50,000	5.50F Year
ITF London & Edinburgh	01903 820820	Fixed Rate TESSA	4 years	£3,000	6.20F Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£3,000	6.50F Year

Newcastle Bank Gibraltar	0350 76168	Nova Access	Instant	£25,000	6.30 Year
Newcastle Bank Gibraltar	0350 76168	Nova Ninety	90 Day	£55,000	6.50 Year
Britannia International	01624 628512	2 Year Bond	31/7/98	£5,000	7.00F Year
Northern Rock, Guam	01481 714600	Millennium Bond	1/1/00	£10,000	7.50F Year

Investment Accounts			1 month	£20	4.75 Year
				£500	5.25 Year
				£25,000	5.50 Year
Income Bonds			3 months	£25,000	6.00 Month
				£25,000	6.25 Month
Capital Bond	Series J		5 years	£100	6.65F Maturity
First Option Bonds			12 months	£1,000	6.00F Year
				£20,000	6.25F Year
Pensioners' Guaranteed Income Bond	Series 3		5 year	£500	7.00F Month
NS Certificates (tax-free)	43rd issue		5 year	£100	5.35F Maturity
	9th Index linked		5 year	£100	2.50-7pi Maturity
Children's Bond	Issue H		5 year	£25	6.75F Maturity

P Post only F Fixed rate N Not rate A All withdrawals subject to 30 day loss of interest  
All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01682 500677 15 August 1996



### FEAR OF FINANCE Nic Cicotti

Call me a cynic if you like, but I am completely underwhelmed by the Halifax Building Society's proposal to first-time buyers that they insure themselves against negative equity.

You may have heard about the scheme. It was launched this week to assuage fanfare and drum rolls. Not surprisingly described by the Halifax as providing "future peace of mind", it is designed to tempt first-time buyers - that precious commodity - into the market.

In return for an upfront payment, the society promises that should you wish to move home at any time between five and ten years of starting your mortgage, it will make up the difference if the house is sold for less than the original loan.

On a typical £50,000 loan, based on 95 per cent of a home's value, the fee would be £763, which is added to the total mortgage. But there are snags.

First, you cannot simply be looking to pull out of the housing market, you must buy another house. Second, you must be prepared to take out another Halifax mortgage, even if it is not the cheapest. Third, you must take out compulsory property insurance with the Halifax, when it is not likely to be the cheapest option.

You also have to go through a set of hoops, including trying to sell the property yourself for three months, before the Halifax takes it off your hands. Try telling that to the people next up the chain.

In any case, what the Halifax forgets to mention is that if, as is likely, you add the insurance cost to your mortgage, for a typical 25-year repayment term, you will be paying £2,000 for such cover after interest.

The society also conveniently forgets that for most people it is not just negative equity that stops them moving, but insufficient equity.

That is, in order to move home, borrowers rely on the surplus from the sale of their old property to fund estate agents' and legal fees, plus removal expenses. This is traditionally estimated at about 10 per cent of a home's value.

Of course, it is possible that anyone desperately wanting to move will find it out of savings or inheritance.

But it is more likely that they will simply put their proposed move on hold, as hundreds of thousands of borrowers trapped by a combination of negative and insufficient equity have already done. In which case the insurance won't be any use at all.

Finally, the Halifax ignores the very real difference between 1988 and today. Then, after several years of meteoric rises, house prices plummeted and stayed low because of the economic recession.

Now, despite the marginal increases seen in recent months, they remain lower than at the height of the boom. They are likely to edge up over the next few years, meaning that even if there is another housing recession, they have less far to fall.

I'm all in favour of first-time buyers entering the market if they want to. I am even more in favour of societies like the Halifax, which generally has an excellent reputation, offering succulent deals to tempt people back in.

What I am not in favour of is of mortgage lenders treating prospective customers like morons. In this instance, I believe the Halifax has done just that. The society should stop before we morons take our custom elsewhere.

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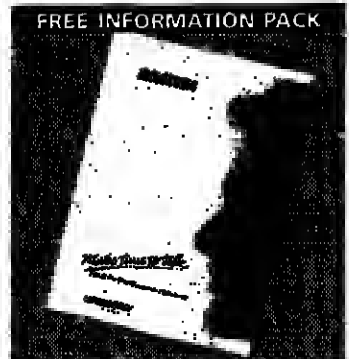
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# WINE

When the Dance Project Michael and Michael  
 returned brings this strong spirited and original  
 group to London with a programme of selected  
 dance and drama pieces by Merce Cunningham,  
 Trisha Brown and Kraig Patterson. London Col-  
 lection, London WC2, 20-24 Aug.  
 When the Dance Company's special celebra-  
 tion of the work of Gluck's dramatic opera Orfeo  
 comes to London this eagerly awaited production  
 by the acclaimed cabaret-singer Michael  
 the mythical hero. Edinburgh Festival  
 Association Street, to 20 Aug.  
 When the London Martha Graham's Dance group  
 presents the choreography of Martha Graham  
 in 1918 and 1945. Edinburgh  
 Festival Association, 18-21 Aug.

Radio

**Day 6: Celeste & Alton** The  
Rocky tenor pairing.

[illegible]

**Big Town Playboys, The Men  
Couldn't Have, Albion Band,**

**Florida Antiques Fair**—Trade antiquities and objects of art.  
Crescenton, Tower 444 Haddon Street, NW8  
Dade County, 11am-5pm, Sat. 11am-5pm.  
**Summer on the Seacoast Eclectic market**—  
Antiques, jewelry, paintings, and more.  
Gambettto Square, Piquette Highway, 815 N.Y.  
Ave. SE15 (717-732-3202)  
Dorchester County, Today, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun.  
10am-5pm, Aug. 11, 11am-5pm, Aug. 12, 11am-5pm, Aug. 13, 11am-5pm, Aug. 14, 11am-5pm, Aug. 15, 11am-5pm, Aug. 16, 11am-5pm, Aug. 17, 11am-5pm, Aug. 18, 11am-5pm, Aug. 19, 11am-5pm, Aug. 20, 11am-5pm, Aug. 21, 11am-5pm, Aug. 22, 11am-5pm, Aug. 23, 11am-5pm, Aug. 24, 11am-5pm, Aug. 25, 11am-5pm, Aug. 26, 11am-5pm, Aug. 27, 11am-5pm, Aug. 28, 11am-5pm, Aug. 29, 11am-5pm, Aug. 30, 11am-5pm, Aug. 31, 11am-5pm.  
**Barbara Boyd Berkeley Fair**—Original costume  
jewelry, Primy Price Flyer Road N10 (016-28-  
0000) Today, Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-5pm,  
any, phone for details.  
**The Pleasant Beach Short Sale**, live music,  
concerts, and open debate.  
Pleasant Beach Community Center, 1000  
Highway N16 (707-349-0213) BR; Stoke New  
Market, Tonight 7pm-Late, LA, 22.50.  
**Market Square**  
Antiques and jewelry—An assortment of home-  
made items, jewelry, and more. Featuring an  
acoustic band. **Barnhart Bantlefield** (405-284-0928)  
Dorchester County, 11am-5pm, Sat. 11am-5pm,  
Sun. 11am-5pm, Aug. 11, 11am-5pm, Aug. 12, 11am-5pm, Aug. 13, 11am-5pm, Aug. 14, 11am-5pm, Aug. 15, 11am-5pm, Aug. 16, 11am-5pm, Aug. 17, 11am-5pm, Aug. 18, 11am-5pm, Aug. 19, 11am-5pm, Aug. 20, 11am-5pm, Aug. 21, 11am-5pm, Aug. 22, 11am-5pm, Aug. 23, 11am-5pm, Aug. 24, 11am-5pm, Aug. 25, 11am-5pm, Aug. 26, 11am-5pm, Aug. 27, 11am-5pm, Aug. 28, 11am-5pm, Aug. 29, 11am-5pm, Aug. 30, 11am-5pm, Aug. 31, 11am-5pm.  
**Summer Sale**  
Antiques and jewelry—An assortment of home-  
made items, jewelry, and more. Featuring an  
acoustic band. **Barnhart Bantlefield** (405-284-0928)  
Dorchester County, 11am-5pm, Sat. 11am-5pm,  
Sun. 11am-5pm, Aug. 11, 11am-5pm, Aug. 12, 11am-5pm, Aug. 13, 11am-5pm, Aug. 14, 11am-5pm, Aug. 15, 11am-5pm, Aug. 16, 11am-5pm, Aug. 17, 11am-5pm, Aug. 18, 11am-5pm, Aug. 19, 11am-5pm, Aug. 20, 11am-5pm, Aug. 21, 11am-5pm, Aug. 22, 11am-5pm, Aug. 23, 11am-5pm, Aug. 24, 11am-5pm, Aug. 25, 11am-5pm, Aug. 26, 11am-5pm, Aug. 27, 11am-5pm, Aug. 28, 11am-5pm, Aug. 29, 11am-5pm, Aug. 30, 11am-5pm, Aug. 31, 11am-5pm.  
**Seaside**  
Antiques and jewelry—An assortment of home-  
made items, jewelry, and more. Featuring an  
acoustic band. **Barnhart Bantlefield** (405-284-0928)  
Dorchester County, 11am-5pm, Sat. 11am-5pm,  
Sun. 11am-5pm, Aug. 11, 11am-5pm, Aug. 12, 11am-5pm, Aug. 13, 11am-5pm, Aug. 14, 11am-5pm, Aug. 15, 11am-5pm, Aug. 16, 11am-5pm, Aug. 17, 11am-5pm, Aug. 18, 11am-5pm, Aug. 19, 11am-5pm, Aug. 20, 11am-5pm, Aug. 21, 11am-5pm, Aug. 22, 11am-5pm, Aug. 23, 11am-5pm, Aug. 24, 11am-5pm, Aug. 25, 11am-5pm, Aug. 26, 11am-5pm, Aug. 27, 11am-5pm, Aug. 28, 11am-5pm, Aug. 29, 11am-5pm, Aug. 30, 11am-5pm, Aug. 31, 11am-5pm.  
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**Eleventh Sunday after Trinity**

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## staying in



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>Television</b> by Gerard Gilbert Star Trek 6.25pm BBC2. In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the hit sci-fi series, a screening of the original pilot episode (1966). 11.15pm Prime Minister 8pm CA. Germane Greck's film, and the fantasy narrative includes payment of all mothers by the state, and compulsory vasectomies for all men - after having their semen frozen at the age of 16 (1993). Edinburgh Nights 11.15pm BBC2. With Sam Shepard and David Carrenberg (1993/94).	White 9pm CA. Juliet Stevenson. The woman who turns - a touch - into a wife of a toy MP (1993/94). 11.15pm Prime Minister 8pm CA. Germane Greck's film, and the fantasy narrative includes payment of all mothers by the state, and compulsory vasectomies for all men - after having their semen frozen at the age of 16 (1993). Edinburgh Nights 11.15pm BBC2. With Sam Shepard and David Carrenberg (1993/94).	Short Stories: Firing Line 8.30pm CA. It used to be the case that schoolchildren hated the DCF - the Combined Cadet Force. Now they are flocking to it, according to Nicholas Cohen's film, much to their parents' dismay (1993). Inside Story: Betrayal 10pm BBC1. (above). A bride is betrayed on her wedding night, a Latvian winner walks out on his partner once he's pocketed the loot. These and other stories of betrayal make up the best in what has been a fine season of Inside Story (21/1905).	Inside Out: A Heart for In Spain 8.30pm. A heart, who's 13, will die unless she can get a heart and lung transplant. But how does she get a heart? - and doesn't she want to get a heart? (1993). Secret History: Koyukuk 8.30pm. The true story of the race to build a shipwrecked sealer's cabin, between the Arctic and the South. (1993). Harrold 10pm BBC2. The film of the railway cuttings. Comedy (1993).	The Fall Guy 10pm BBC2. (above). A man inverted. A man who's 13, will die unless she can get a heart and lung transplant. But how does she get a heart? - and doesn't she want to get a heart? (1993). From when the cat show was king - to Dustin Hoffman (1993/94). Film Little Big Man (Arthur Penn 1970). 11.55pm BBC1. What a colossal waste of stars as Thomas Berger's novel makes an anti-Vietnam War tract (1993).
<b>Radio</b> by Robert Banks The Story of a Mobster 8.40am R4. Read by Arthur Lowe. A real job. North of London 9.05am R4. After a promising start last week, the anti-metropolitan talk show looks at the importance of minority languages.	Radio 4 7.20pm R4. Michael O'Donnell's series about the fantastic variety of shapes that family life can take returns with the Richards of Streatham, and a 14-year-old boy accused of armed robbery.	My Life as a Car 11pm R4. Comedy. The excellent Phil Daniels plays a man who measures out his life in oil-changes - this week we meet both his first car, a two-tone blue Rover 100, and his first girlfriend.	Golden Moments and Silver Moments 11pm. The best of the best. The film says it all - except that George Hamilton IV is presenting it, 30 years after 'Distant Drums' hit No. 1. 'Kitch' hardly begins to cover it.	Over the Counter 12.25pm. A man who takes a break from his job to run a small business. In the film, 'the cake queen of Warwickshire' who has baked and iced her way into big names.

## Sunday television and radio

## BBC1

7.45 Moomin (R) (1742437).  
 8.10 Playdays (R) (5362708).  
 8.30 Breakfast with Frost (Including 8.30 News, Weather) (217088).  
 9.30 A Great Day on the Ice. Aice Henderson at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate (S) (6549963).  
 10.15 See Hear (S) (535741).  
 10.45 Across the Wide Missouri (William Wellman 1951 US). Trapper Clark Gable marries the daughter of an Indian chief (9071925).  
 12.00 Countryfile (Including Weather for the Week Ahead) (S) (49760).  
 12.30 News, ThinkTank. Should the rich pay more tax than the poor? (81573).  
 1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (R) (S) (9054708). \*  
 2.50 North Sea Hijack (Andrew V McLaglen 1980 US). Anthony Perkins hijacks a North Sea oil rig. Enter Roger Moore in a wet suit. How can you resist? (5590632).  
 4.35 Sister Wendy's Story of Painting. The nun talks Goya (S) (1376470).  
 5.05 Junior Masterchef 96. Simon Parkin dips a pin in the contestants' dishes (S) (5577012). \*  
 5.35 News, Weather (726760). \*  
 5.55 Regional News (586692).  
 6.00 Songs of Praise. Worship from Clydeside (S) (442673).  
 6.35 Antiques Roadshow (R) (S) (778760). \*  
 7.20 Days of Thunder (Tony Scott 1990 US). Not so much thunder as a soft, wet raspberry as this expensive action movie casts Tom Cruise as a stock-car racer with attitude. Nicole Kidman (this is the movie where Cruise wooed the Aussie actress) plays the doctor who mops his brow after he leaves the track at Daytona. Robert Duvall and Randy Quaid lend support (S) (8902383). \*  
 9.00 News, Weather (389663). \*  
 9.15 Stephen King's The Stand. 4/4. The conclusion of Stephen King's epic about viruses, good and evil (S) (893215). \*  
 10.45 BBC Proms 1996. Sir Colin Davis conducts the European Union Youth Orchestra around some Sibelius and Richard Strauss (S) (2186166).  
 12.00 The Sky at Night. Patrick Moore looks into the discovery of 'life on Mars' (S) (4880155).  
 12.25 The Quiller Memorandum (Michael Anderson 1966 UK). Neo-Nazis in 1930s Berlin occupy this decent horror film-adapted yarn. George Segal, Alec Guinness and Max von Sydow are the stars (906529). \*  
 2.05 Weather (1110074). To 2.05am.  
 REGIONS. Wales: 12.00am Cricket. 12.45 The Sky at Night. 1.05 Film: The Quiller Memorandum. 2.45 News Headlines; Weather. Scotland: 12.00pm Landward.

## BBC2

6.15 Open University: Pure Maths (3678857). 6.40 Maths Methods (2531383). 7.05 King Lear: Workshop 2 (3937215). \* 7.30 Biology (1712296). 7.55 Richard II - Character of a King (5796334). 8.20 Managing the Health Service: Who Calls the Shots (534165). 8.45 Children and New Technology (8200215). \*  
 9.10 The Littlest Post Shop (S) (2805499).  
 9.30 Fully Booked. Guests include singer Louise and the band M83, plus Glenda McKay from Emmerdale (S) (122437).  
 12.00 Sunday Grandstand. With Sue Barker. 12.05 Cricket: the first part of a feature on cricketers who are expected to lead out senior sides in the coming years. 12.30 The Auto Trader RAC Touring Car Championship. Murray Walker provides the commentary from Oulton Park. 1.00 Golf: the final round of the Women's Open Championship from Woburn. 2.00 Showjumping action from the Hickstead Derby. 4.00 Golf. 6.00 News Round-Up (S) (474966).  
 6.50 Student Choice 96. New four-part series, showing over the coming weeks, for people intending to go to college and university. Johnny Vaughan is the presenter (S) (727012).  
 7.20 Rough Guide to the World. Magenta De Vine and Simon O'Brien visit Trinidad (S) (294383). \*  
 8.00 Paralympics. Helen Rollason presents action from the second day in Atlanta (S) (833499).  
 8.40 Inside Story. See Preview, p26 (R) (787499). \*  
 9.30 Steptoe and Son. In an episode called 'Live Now LIVE Later', now-contestant Albert makes a claim on the welfare state (R) (93437).  
 10.00 The Russia House (Fred Schepisi 1990 US). The first US-produced film to be made in the Soviet Union, John Le Carré's glasnost novel was stylishly adapted by Tom Stoppard. It casts Sean Connery as the publisher-cum-reluctant spy sent to Moscow to pick up a manuscript full of alleged nuclear secrets from Moscovite Michelle Pfeiffer. Cue romance (S) (6128). \*  
 12.00 Cross My Heart (Jacques Vanier 1990 FR). Terrific black comedy in which the friends of a 12-year-old boy (Sylvain Lobry) rally round when his mother dies - hiding her body - so that he doesn't get sent to an orphanage. A charmer (635529). To 1.45am.  
 2.00 The Learning Zone: Summer Nights: Book Love Essentials (1997). 4.00 Languages: Greek Language and People 5 & 6 (6065529). 4.50 French Experience (6088180). 5.00 Business and Work: The Tourist (7548722). 5.50 Job Bank (1659063). To 6.00am.  
 REGIONS. Wales: 1.00 cricket. 3.30 Showjumping. 4.00 Cricket. 6.00 Golf.

## ITV/London

6.00 GMTV. The Sunday Review. 6.30 News, Sport and Weather. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (47234).  
 8.00 Disney's Road Hog (8875079).  
 9.25 Tales from the Cryptkeeper (R) (S) (7421031).  
 9.50 James Bond Jr (S) (6652505).  
 10.15 Link (S) (14251).  
 10.30 Morning Worship. From St Mary the Virgin, Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex (S) (72925). \*  
 11.30 The Rock That Rolled Away (2243401).  
 11.50 Many Questions. Guests include humanist Anne Helleher (2135789).  
 12.30 Citytalk (Followed by LWT Weather) (79499).  
 1.00 News and Weather (4584079). \*  
 1.10 The Agenda (S) (722470).  
 2.00 Capital Holidays. Rhodes, Crete and a beach holiday in Cyprus (S) (2321).  
 2.30 Ladyhawke (Richard Donner 1985 US). Medieval fantasy adventure about a knight (Rutger Hauer) and his fair lady love (Michelle Pfeiffer) who are victims of a curse that turns him into a wolf by night and her into a hawk by day. Matthew Broderick and Leo McKern co-star, along with some neat special effects (21742789).  
 4.40 Treasures. Caroline Langrishe looks at the antiques and bric-a-brac on a Devon farm (1300437).  
 5.10 Upstairs, Downstairs (R) (8705296).  
 6.10 London Tonight (Followed by LWT Weather) (219414).  
 6.25 News and Weather (458470). \*  
 6.35 Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman (S) (997708). \*  
 7.30 Faith in the Future (R) (S) (505). \*  
 8.00 Cardiac. The first of two new adventures for Derek Jacobi's 12th-century detective monk. A young man with an urgent wish to join the order may have more reasons for doing so than he is admitting (S) (69798). \*  
 9.30 The World of James Bond - a Tribute to Cubby Broccoli. See Preview, p26 (S) (36429). \*  
 10.30 News and Weather (555741). \*  
 10.45 Breathless (Jean-Marc M83 1983 US). Intense, intense, intense (followed by course) to romantic. Jean-Luc Godard's Nouvelle Vague classic. Richard Gere plays the cool-killing hustler, who, in a nice twist on the original (the setting here is LA, not Paris) falls in love with a French student (Valerie Kaprisky) (5114079). \*  
 12.50 Blue Bayou (Karen Arthur 1989 US). Bog-standard police thriller as new DA in town, Alfie Woodward, begins to suspect that her boss's new wife is involved in a society murder (155513).  
 2.40 The Chant (R) (S) (6586000).  
 3.40 Murder, She Wrote (R) (8951513).  
 4.30 Night Shift (R) (6507189).  
 4.35 Flux (R) (S) (751109). To 5.30am.

## Channel 4

6.40 The Great Maratha (2566079).  
 7.05 Madeline (S) (8444321).  
 7.35 The Real Life Adventures of Professor Thompson (1727128).  
 8.05 Droopy (R) (S) (1170895).  
 8.20 Two Stupid Dogs (S) (6580692).  
 8.50 Cadfael and Detectives (S) (1757272).  
 9.20 Saved by the Bell (R) (7420302). \*  
 9.45 Sister Sister (S) (350470).  
 10.15 Happy Days (R) (2486470).  
 10.40 Mission Impossible (5052857). \*  
 11.40 The Waltons (R) (2165760). \*  
 12.40 The Best Years of Our Lives (William Wyler 1946 US). In 1944, Sam Goldwyn had seen a photograph in Time magazine showing a group of marines coming home from the Second World War and the accompanying story suggested that they might be returning to jobs and homes with mixed emotions. The resulting film is long, by no means a classic, but fascinating all the same. Frederic March, Virginia Mayo and Harold Russell (as the machinist who has lost both his hands) are among the stars (75376857).  
 3.50 Notes. Short film (S) (3850586).  
 4.00 Crash Course. Repeat Short Stories film about folk on an intensive driving course (R) (234). \*  
 4.30 Too Close to Heaven. Final episode in the history of gospel music, as the Rev Jesse Jackson recalls how gospel was strongly linked to the civil rights movement (S) (2242505).  
 5.35 Desmond's (R) (S) (933963). \*  
 6.05 Babylon 5. Highly involved cult sci-fi - not for the uninitiated. Sheridan organises an attack on the Shadows (S) (368012). \*  
 7.00 It Came from Beneath the Sea (Robert Gordon 1955 US). A giant octopus with a grudge against San Francisco menaces a nuclear submarine in this cheap sci-fi shocker. Ray Harryhausen was in charge of the SFX (65465).  
 8.30 Quetzal Cloud Forest. The wildlife of the cloud forest of the Chiapas region in Mexico (R) (9234).  
 9.00 Brainiac. Ken Campbell wraps his eyebrows around such questions as 'What is thought?' and 'what does it mean to be conscious?' (S) (2673).  
 10.00 Awakenings (Penny Marshall 1990 US). See The Big Picture, p26 (S) (34358012). \*  
 12.15 The Leeds Classic 1996. Round seven of cycling's 1996 World Cup (5700190).  
 1.20 Kameo (188 Chopra 1980 India). Catch this - an Indian film noir. Social realist Chopra made this dark, lurid anti-capital-punishment piece concerning a lawyer forced to prosecute a thief for murder, although he is sure that his new father-in-law is responsible. In Hindi with English sub-titles (74980618). To 3.35am.

## ITV/Regions

As London except: 2.00pm Carlton 14707873. 2.20 Raising a Storm. The Making of a Storm (1705234). 2.50 Film: The Scarlet Pimpernel (17395050). 5.25 Hand of God (1985/86). 5.45 Homecoming (1710541). 12.40am Film: The Making of a Storm (1705234). 2.00am Cyber Cafe (5994567). 2.40am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 3.10am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 3.30am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 3.50am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 4.00am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 4.30am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 5.00am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 5.30am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 6.00am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 6.30am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 7.00am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 7.30am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 8.00am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 8.30am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 9.00am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 9.30am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 10.00am Best of British Motor Sport (113161). 10.30am Best of British 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## The big picture

**Awakenings**  
Sun 10pm C4

Robin Williams made his name as a manic stand-up comic. He successfully converted that persona into larger-than-life funsters in such films as *Popeye*, and *Mrs Doubtfire*. All the while, however, he has shown a surprising adeptness at more serious roles in movies like *The World According to Garp* and *Dead Poets Society*. In Penny Marshall's moving, Oscar-nominated reading of Oliver Sacks' book, he plays a doctor coaxing back to life a sleeping-sickness patient (Robert De Niro) who has been in a coma for 30 years.

Did pheasants used to hop squawking around our woodlands in the 12th century? Weren't these game birds a far later introduction to our shores? I may be wrong, but *Cadfael* (Sun 8pm ITV), like any historical drama, inspires this sort of pedantry. In case you've never caught the show, *Cadfael* is a sleuthing medieval monk, played by Derek Jacobi at his most jolly and benign. The pheasant in question rears up in front of a horse ridden by leering, sneering Ian Reddington (you might remember him as Thick Dicky in *EastEnders*), soon to be felled by a jewel-encrusted dagger. Is his death somehow connected to the young nobleman who has come to Cadfael's monastery desperate to be taken on as a novice? Central Television has gone to considerable lengths to make its period drama authentic – filming it in Hungary because the English countryside is too full of electricity pylons, out-of-town shopping centres and oilseed rape – a pointed lesson to all the Merrie Englanders who will no doubt help make up the audience. Anyway, it's quite diverting in a surprisingly subdued sort of way.

A technical hitch the other week means that the *Inside Story* (Sun 8pm BBC2) about the Dionne quintuplets gets a second, fully-functioning showing – quite rightly, because this is a fascinating and moving film, given a boost of topicality by the recent controversy over the octuplet mother-to-be (or not to be). The Dionne quintuplets were identical girls born to a dirt-poor French-Canadian farmer's wife in 1934, and almost immediately whisked away to a ready-built hospital by their doctor – a chipper-looking man obsessed with germs. There they grew up as a freak show – on one public holiday, 10,000 people queued up to watch them at play in their open-air "pen" (more like an enclosure at the zoo). Three of the five are still living, and give their first on-camera interview to producer/director Jane Treacy. The otherwise admirable *Dancing in the Street* (Sat 8pm BBC2) comes to a somewhat cursory-seeming conclusion, yanking us from hip-hop and rap to techno and rave music, and in the process exposing the series' one weakness – that on occasion, Sean Barrett's narration comes on like a Shell promotional

short circa 1965. Strangely for a series that was a few weeks ago at pains to illustrate the connection between LSD and psychedelic rock, there is not one mention of the word Ecstasy – surely a much wider socio-musical phenomenon than acid ever was. *Brainspotting* (Sun 9pm C4) continues with Ken Campbell playing chess with Dodger the dog, shaking hands with COG the robot, and going through several changes of woolly hat in his search for the meaning of consciousness. No such strenuous mental activity from *The World of James Bond* – a Tribute to Cabbie Broccoli (Sun 9pm). The measure of machismo in Bond film circles seems to be the swimming pool – and contributors seem happiest posing in front of theirs. The recently deceased Broccoli has, or had, a rather swank Italianate affair, complete with Doric columns and pencil-thin cedars. Director Guy Hamilton has a rather more modest pool, complete with an underpowered-looking fountain, in what looks like Provence. As always, though, Sean Connery knows not to flaunt it, and is happy to be filmed on the veranda of his home in Nassau.



## The big match

**Wimbledon v Manchester United**  
Sat 10.45pm BBC1

He may have missed out on signing Alan Shearer, but Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson (above) made some typically canny purchases during the summer – and all for a total well below the £15m Newcastle United paid for the England striker. Fergie picked up the Czech Republic star Karel Poborsky, one of the finds of Johan Cruyff, for £1m from Barcelona. Wimbledon may not be looking forward to opening the FA Carling Premiership season against a Double team strengthened in this way.

# Saturday television and radio

## BBC1

7.25 News, Weather (2966036).  
7.30 *Children's BBC*: Oscar's Orchestra. 7.55 Felix the Cat. 8.10 Robinson Sucree. 8.30 Bucky O'Hare. 8.55 The Ragones. 9.20 Mighty Max. 9.45 Grange Hill. 10.10 Sweet Valley High. 10.35 The 0 Zone.  
10.55 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight* (Phillippe Grimond 1988 *F.W. Ger*). Ron Moody, Brian Blessed and Sheila Hancock provide the voices for the much loved Goscinnny-Uderzo cartoon Gauls and Romans (5024017).  
12.12 *Weather* (1578340).  
12.15 *Grandstand*: 12.20 Football Focus. Gary Lineker takes over the chair. 1.00 News. 1.05 Cricket Focus. 1.30 Showjumping: coverage of the Derby Meeting. 2.00 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 2.05 Showjumping: further coverage of the Derby Meeting. 2.30 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 2.35 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 2.40 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 2.45 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 2.50 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 2.55 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.00 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.05 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.10 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.15 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.20 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.25 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.30 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.35 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.40 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.45 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.50 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 3.55 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.00 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.05 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.10 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.15 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.20 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.25 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.30 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.35 *Ant & Dec's Big Fight*. 4.40 *Ant & Dec's 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# Internet waits in wings for banking dinosaurs



JEREMY WARNER

'By the turn of the century, some 15.7 per cent of households in the US will take Internet banking. Furthermore, because these people will be drawn mainly from the upper income brackets, they will represent some 30 per cent of retail banking profitability'

Whether you are plugged into it or not, most of us have in some way or other already been touched by the Internet. Not so traditional high street banking, whose forays into the Net have so far been reluctant and half-hearted. If the findings of a report published this week by the management consultants Booz-Allen & Hamilton are to be believed, it is not hard to see why. According to Booz-Allen's vice-president of information technology, John Boochever, the Internet poses a very serious threat both to the customer base of the traditional banking oligopoly and to its profits. I would go further. The Internet promises a revolution in retail banking of monumental proportions, one in which high street banks as we know and hate them may largely disappear.

On Monday, Barclays is planning to launch what it claims to be the most advanced banking facility so far to be offered in Britain across the Internet. Using your Barclaycard, you will for the first time be able to pay utility bills through the Net. It can readily be seen that this falls a long way short of full Internet banking. Indeed, it is scarcely more than a gimmick, which only fanatics and snobs might want to use.

Most European banks work the same are represented on the Web already, but their presence rarely goes beyond what Booz-Allen calls "entry level", similar to a glossy

brochure telling you what the bank can offer. With full Internet banking it is possible to envisage a world in which it would not only be possible to access your statement, mail your cash, pay your bills and transact all the usual business associated with a bank, but one in which it might also be possible to have your custom chase the best deposit rates and lowest overdraft rates automatically.

Banking services would be unbundled enabling unfettered promiscuity of custom. Banks would lose their proprietary grip on their customer base, bringing about a reversal of the present position where customers are made to feel grateful to their bank for providing a service. Instead, the customer's financial profile would become the property of middle men and software providers, with the result that banks would genuinely have to compete for your business. In short, retail banking would become much more like wholesale banking.

If all this sounds like futuristic fantasy, don't be misled; it is not. The technology already exists. Booz-Allen estimates that by the turn of the century, some 15.7 per cent of households in the US will take Internet banking. Furthermore, because these people will be drawn mainly from the upper income brackets, they will account for some 30 per cent of retail banking profitability. Computer ownership in Britain is out yet

as highly developed as in the US and, according to Barclays, its customers in any case demand a plurality of different kinds of banking. They still want branch banking alongside all the new services on offer. Barclays insists. Well, perhaps, but once everyone learns how cheap Internet banking is, I'm not so sure. Through the branch network, the average payment transaction costs more than 60p. With telephone banking it is 35p. The cost through committed computer banking is around 17p. With Internet banking it is even better - just 5p.

That gives the Internet bank a very considerable competitive advantage. The cost-income ratio of the best of the high-street banks is something like 50 per cent. With Internet banks, it can be as low as 15 per cent. No contest. So why is this service not already on offer in the UK. Er... technology, mutter the big clearers. We can't get access to the encryption technology which allows secure Internet banking. Undoubtedly this is part of the explanation, but there is another rather more obvious one. The fact is that for existing retail banks with their extensive branch networks, Internet banking offers no cost advantages. Rather, a hit like telephone banking, it merely adds to costs until the service reaches sufficient mass to allow other cost centres to be closed. Herein lies part of the danger to the estab-

lished banks. Unencumbered by the high-cost branch network and infrastructure of the traditional banks, the pure Internet bank can undercut with abandon and still make good profits. The high-street banks are hard enough to distinguish one from another already; most customers cite convenience as the chief factor for choosing one bank over another. Once the advantages of geographical proximity go, all brand loyalty and value falls away. The traditional banks will find it increasingly hard to hold on to their market positions.

All this is for the future, but it is not so far away as to be only a distant concern. For the time being the old dinosaurs of banking are making record, many would say excessive, profits. A new, smaller, faster moving reptile is waiting in the wings. Twenty years from now, they may have inherited the earth.

## A cautionary tale of two demergers

There could scarcely be a greater contrast than the two big demergers working their way through the City at the moment. Thorn EMI's share price has never looked back since the demerger of the EMI music business from the Thorn TV rental side was first mooted a couple of years back. For Hanson,

the story has been the reverse. Its share price has fallen steadily against the market since proposals to split the once acquisitive conglomerate into four were announced seven months ago.

This is partly because the market reckons the demerger of EMI will ripen it for takeover by the likes of Disney or Bertelsmann. Not so many of the Hanson quadruplets. It hardly seems necessary for Lord Hanson to bring ridicule on himself by inserting a poison pill into the *Millennium* chemicals business that forms one of the four. Nobody would want to bid for these under-invested, cash-squeezed companies, anyway. But chiefly the contrast between the two stems from EMI being a class act in a very high growth business.

The same cannot be said of any of the Hanson four. Indeed it is much worse than that. Hanson may never have been what it seemed. Its success may always have been as much a result of acquisition accounting and tax avoidance as anything else. Now that it is breaking itself up into four distinct companies, each individually making some kind of sense, comes the final reckoning. And it is not pleasant. It may be that the four collectively cannot afford the dividend the whole has been blithely paying out to shareholders all those years. EMI's greatest illusionists cannot keep it up for ever.

# Airtours buys third liner to corner budget cruise market

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Airtours has paid £26m for a third cruise ship to add to the pair of liners it currently sails out of Palma in Majorca.

The *MS Song of Norway*, which has just over one thousand berths, is the sister ship of the *Caravel*, which Airtours acquired, also from Royal Caribbean Cruises, in October 1994.

Airtours entered the cruise business only two years ago, attempting to create a new niche market for seaborne packages priced around £500.

Until then, cruises had been pitched at a wealthier audience and priced accordingly. The cheapest cruises then started at about £1,400 a head.

Harry Coe, Airtours' finance director, said Airtours was able to offer cheap packages because its existing tour infrastructure

enabled it to sell cruises at little extra cost.

The company already operates dozens of charter flights to Palma every weekend throughout the summer and, with a chain of 700 travel agents, it can run the cruise operation with a dedicated staff of only 10.

Mr Coe said: "We've not made any secret of the fact that our cruise operation has been an outstanding success since we launched it two years ago. We

are carrying 100,000 people a year. It will probably rise to 150,000."

Airtours' initial plan is to operate the *Song of Norway* with its two other ships in the Mediterranean after the ship completes its final winter cruises for Royal Caribbean, which will leave it from Airtours until next March.

It is expected, however, that the ship will join the *Caravel* on winter tours to the

Caribbean, which Airtours sells mainly to the Canadian market it has acquired through the purchase of two separate tour operators. The company said it had already sold 90 per cent of its cruise capacity for the 1996/97 winter season.

Mr Coe estimated Airtours had won a quarter of the total cruise market. He also believed the company had 90 per cent of the new market for budget cruises.

Airtours faces little serious competition at the budget end of the market, although Thomson entered the cruise business this summer by chartering a ship in the Mediterranean.

Airtours' latest acquisition comes at the end of a week in which the company, in line with other tour operators, reduced capacity and increased the price of late summer package holidays by about £20 to £30 a person.

Airtours led the industry into capacity cuts of about 15 per cent this summer, reducing the number of available holidays from about 10 million to 8.5 million.

That move followed a disastrous 1995 in which overcapacity forced the main operators to slash prices at the end of the summer season simply to cover costs. The result was a collapse of margins and profits.

# Maxwell claimants net £44m

CHRIS GODSMARK  
Business Correspondent

Administrators to the Maxwell Communication Corporation, part of the business empire of the late tycoon Robert Maxwell, have settled their claim against LLP, the US arm of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, netting £68m (£44m) for creditors.

The out-of-court settlement with the administrators, Price Waterhouse, comes three months before the case was due in court in New York. It brings the total amount recovered in the winding up of Maxwell Communication to more than \$1bn for the first time.

Price Waterhouse said the settlement increases the projected final payout for creditors to between 46 per cent and 51 per cent of their original claim, excluding funds which are the subject of litigation, compared with the previous range of 44 per cent to 48 per cent.

The case against Coopers & Lybrand LLP centred around its role as auditor to the US publishers Macmillan Inc, which was a subsidiary of Maxwell Communications. Price Waterhouse alleged Coopers had failed to spot the transfer of shares in Berlitz International from Macmillan to the Mr Maxwell's private business.

The settlement, which was considerably less than Price Waterhouse's claim, is separate to an outstanding legal claim against Coopers & Lybrand's UK operation.

## DUNFERMLINE BUILDING SOCIETY

RATES OF INTEREST from 17 August 1996

INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS		Interest payable annually	
Premium Plus Shares*		GROSS RATES	NET RATES†
(Including Bonus Interest)			(ILLUSTRATIVE)
	£100,000+	5.95%	4.76%
£50,000 -	£99,999	5.75%	4.60%
£25,000 -	£49,999	5.40%	4.32%
£10,000 -	£24,999	4.95%	3.96%
Premium Shares			
	£100,000+	4.85%	3.88%
£50,000 -	£99,999	4.65%	3.72%
£25,000 -	£49,999	4.25%	3.40%
£10,000 -	£24,999	3.75%	3.00%
£5,000 -	£ 9,999	3.35%	2.68%
£500 -	£ 4,999	2.85%	2.28%
Dunfermline Gold			
	£25,000+	3.45%	2.76%
£10,000 -	£24,999	3.20%	2.56%
£5,000 -	£ 9,999	2.95%	2.36%
£2,500 -	£ 4,999	2.70%	2.16%
£500 -	£ 2,499	2.45%	1.96%
£100 -	£ 499	0.50%	0.40%
HeadStart Account			
£1 or more		2.50%	2.00%
Dunfermline Direct (Postal Account Only)			
	£100,000+	5.55%	4.44%
£50,000 -	£99,999	5.40%	4.32%
£25,000 -	£49,999	5.20%	4.16%
£10,000 -	£24,999	5.00%	4.00%
£5,000 -	£ 9,999	4.80%	3.84%
£2,000 -	£ 4,999	4.15%	3.32%
Dunfermline Tassas (Fifth Issue)			
	£3,000 +	Tax Free	
£100 -	£2,999	6.50%	
Dunfermline Tassas (First, Second, Third and Fourth Issues)			
		6.50%	
Maximum Capital Option			
All other options		5.50%	

### PREMIUM PLUS SHARES\*

Interest rates for this account include bonus interest of 0.75% gross p.a. payable if no withdrawals are made in the 12 months prior to the annual interest due date of 30 September.

### INTEREST PAYABLE OTHER THAN ANNUALLY

Where interest on Premium and Premium Plus Accounts is payable monthly (or on Premium Account half yearly), the above annual rates are reduced by 0.50% gross.

### OTHER INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

The rates of interest payable on Gold Deposits, Scotgold Accounts, Treasurers Deposits and Special Deposits for Charities and Exempt Pension Funds will be in accordance with the rates and rates shown above for Dunfermline Gold, except for balances in excess of £50,000 where the rate will be 4.05% gross p.a.

Details of the rates of interest applicable to all other investment accounts including closed issues are available from any branch office.

### TAX ARRANGEMENTS

Interest payable on or after 6 April 1996 will be paid or credited after the deduction of income tax at the lower rate of 20% or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For details and a registration form for payment of interest gross, please see Inland Revenue leaflet IR110 or call in to your local branch office. \*The net rates quoted are for illustrative purposes assuming relevant rate of tax being 20%.

For further information on the Society's investment services write to the Society at the address below or call in to any branch office.

HEAD OFFICE CALEDONIA HOUSE CARRIDGE AVENUE  
DUNFERMLINE KY11 5PJ TEL 01383 627727

# Bae and Lagardère to merge missile sectors

British Aerospace and French defence and communications company Lagardère yesterday signed an agreement to merge their guided missile activities in a joint venture.

The deal will create Europe's largest guided weapons business, Matra Bae Dynamics, with an annual turnover of around £1bn and a £2.6bn order book. It will employ about 6,000 people.

Bae and Lagardère said the signing marks a big step forward in the consolidation of the European defence industry. It will enable the industry to compete against US giants such as Lockheed Martin, which have emerged from a series of multi-billion dollar mergers in recent years.

Analysts gave the joint venture the thumbs-up. "Putting these two businesses together makes a lot of sense," said Gray

Kelwick, aerospace analyst at Lehman Brothers. "The deal gives critical mass to British Aerospace's Dynamics (missiles) business which has been missing for some time."

The companies said they hoped Matra Bae Dynamics would draw in Thomson SA's guided weapons business if Lagardère succeeded with a proposed bid to buy the French state-owned defence and consumer electronics firm as part of a privatisation programme.

Under the final details of the deal, Bae will make an initial cash payment to Lagardère of £80m to reflect the current difference in value between Lagardère's Matra Defence and Bae Dynamics.

But the final amount to be paid will be adjusted to no less than £50m and no more than £10m, depending on who wins which

orders over the next four years. The announcement is the culmination of more than three years of negotiations between the two companies, which first announced that they were in talks in early 1993.

Industry sources said it is widely believed that political factors delayed the deal. The breakthrough came when Britain announced last month that it would buy Matra's Apache air-launched cruise missile in an order worth £800m, to be awarded to the Bae/Matra joint venture.

The joint venture is still subject to governmental and regulatory approval and both companies said it might be some months before it went ahead. Both are, however, confident of securing approval.

The head of Bae Defence, John Weston, will be chairman



John Weston: Set to be chairman of Matra Bae

at Matra Bae, with Noel Forcadet, chief executive at Matra Défense Espace, as chief executive. Bae's finance director, Richard Lapthorne, and Philippe Camus, the Lagardère director, will complete the four-man board.

British Aerospace shares closed up 11p at 964p.

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# unit trusts

## Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Country	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	154.85	64	10.0	US	154.85	64	10.0
Canada	21.84	11.3	54.3	Canada	21.84	11.3	54.3
Germany	23.24	28.4	100.30	Germany	23.24	28.4	100.30
France	23.24	28.4	100.30	France	23.24	28.4	100.30
Italy	23.24	28.4	100.30	Italy	23.24	28.4	100.30
Spain	23.24	28.4	100.30	Spain	23.24	28.4	100.30
Japan	23.24	28.4	100.30	Japan	23.24	28.4	100.30
Switzerland	23.24	28.4	100.30	Switzerland	23.24	28.4	100.30
Sweden	23.24	28.4	100.30	Sweden	23.24	28.4	100.30
Norway	23.24	28.4	100.30	Norway	23.24	28.4	100.30
Denmark	23.24	28.4	100.30	Denmark	23.24	28.4	100.30
Belgium	23.24	28.4	100.30	Belgium	23.24	28.4	100.30
Netherlands	23.24	28.4	100.30	Netherlands	23.24	28.4	100.30
Australia	23.24	28.4	100.30	Australia	23.24	28.4	100.30
New Zealand	23.24	28.4	100.30	New Zealand	23.24	28.4	100.30
South Africa	23.24	28.4	100.30	South Africa	23.24	28.4	100.30
Singapore	23.24	28.4	100.30	Singapore	23.24	28.4	100.30

## Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	154.85	Nigeria	154.85
Brazil	21.84	Oman	21.84
Chile	23.24	Pakistan	23.24
Colombia	23.24	Philippines	23.24
Costa Rica	23.24	Portugal	23.24
Czech	23.24	Romania	23.24
Denmark	23.24	Saudi Arabia	23.24
Dollar	23.24	Taiwan	23.24
Drac	23.24	Turkey	23.24
East Africa	23.24	Ukraine	23.24
East Asia	23.24	USA	23.24
East Europe	23.24		

## Tourist Rates

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	154.85	Nigeria	154.85
Brazil	21.84	Oman	21.84
Chile	23.24	Pakistan	23.24
Colombia	23.24	Philippines	23.24
Costa Rica	23.24	Portugal	23.24
Czech	23.24	Romania	23.24
Denmark	23.24	Saudi Arabia	23.24
Dollar	23.24	Taiwan	23.24
Drac	23.24	Turkey	23.24
East Africa	23.24	Ukraine	23.24
East Asia	23.24	USA	23.24
East Europe	23.24		

## Interest Rates

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	154.85	Nigeria	154.85
Brazil	21.84	Oman	21.84
Chile	23.24	Pakistan	23.24
Colombia	23.24	Philippines	23.24
Costa Rica	23.24	Portugal	23.24
Czech	23.24	Romania	23.24
Denmark	23.24	Saudi Arabia	23.24
Dollar	23.24	Taiwan	23.24
Drac	23.24	Turkey	23.24
East Africa	23.24	Ukraine	23.24
East Asia	23.24	USA	23.24
East Europe	23.24		

## Bond Yields

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	154.85	Nigeria	154.85
Brazil	21.84	Oman	21.84
Chile	23.24	Pakistan	23.24
Colombia	23.24	Philippines	23.24
Costa Rica	23.24	Portugal	23.24
Czech	23.24	Romania	23.24
Denmark	23.24	Saudi Arabia	23.24
Dollar	23.24	Taiwan	23.24
Drac	23.24	Turkey	23.24
East Africa	23.24	Ukraine	23.24
East Asia	23.24	USA	23.24
East Europe	23.24		

## Money Market Rates

Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	154.85	Nigeria	154.85
Brazil	21.84	Oman	21.84
Chile	23.24	Pakistan	23.24
Colombia	23.24	Philippines	23.24
Costa Rica	23.24	Portugal	23.24
Czech	23.24	Romania	23.24
Denmark	23.24	Saudi Arabia	23.24
Dollar	23.24	Taiwan	23.24
Drac	23.24	Turkey	23.24
East Africa	23.24	Ukraine	23.24
East Asia	23.24	USA	23.24
East Europe	23.24		

## Life Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	Est/Conts	Open
Long UK	154.85	154.85	154.85	154.85
Short UK	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84
Long US	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short US	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Japan	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Japan	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Germany	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Germany	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long France	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short France	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Italy	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Italy	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Spain	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Spain	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Belgium	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Belgium	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Netherlands	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Netherlands	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Australia	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Australia	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long New Zealand	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short New Zealand	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long South Africa	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short South Africa	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Long Singapore	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Short Singapore	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24

## Life FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price	3800	3850	3900	3950	Call/Put
Aug	154.85	154.85	154.85	154.85	154.85
Sep	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84	21.84
Oct	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24
Nov	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24	23.24

## Commodities

Commodity	Price	Commodity	Price
Oil	154.85	Gold	154.85
Gas	21.84	Silver	21.84
Wheat	23.24	Copper	23.24
Corn	23.24	Aluminum	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Zinc	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Iron Ore	23.24
Corn	23.24	Steel	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Coal	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Timber	23.24
Corn	23.24	Rubber	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Nickel	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Platinum	23.24
Corn	23.24	Palladium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Rhodium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Iridium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Osmium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Neodymium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Europium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Gadolinium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Terbium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Dysprosium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Ytterbium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Lanthanum	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Cerium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Praseodymium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Neodymium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Europium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Gadolinium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Terbium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Dysprosium	23.24
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Soybeans	23.24	Lanthanum	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Cerium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Praseodymium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Neodymium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Europium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Gadolinium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Terbium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Dysprosium	23.24
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Soybeans	23.24	Neodymium	23.24
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Soybeans	23.24	Terbium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Dysprosium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Ytterbium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Lanthanum	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Cerium	23.24
Corn	23.24	Praseodymium	23.24
Soybeans	23.24	Neodymium	23.24
Wheat	23.24	Europium	23.2



# Speed and smoke on the water

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a person in a dark, textured environment. The person is wearing a dark jacket and is holding a long, thin object, possibly a pipe or a tool, which is illuminated by a bright light source. The background is dark and grainy, with some lighter, textured areas.

**Waterworld:** Sarah Gatty Saunt (front) and Jason Seels practise their moves at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, in the countdown to next week's European Waterskiing Championships in Denmark. Photograph: Mike Egerton/Empics

## Cycling

### ROBIN NICHOLL

Especially so, after a fruitless attempt for Olympic success. He used the Tour de France as

With Ambrosia's six plus Sciadri, Boardman, and Sean Yates, the host nation has its biggest representation yet in its only world-class road race.

## Tennis

Despite his disqualification Agassi will return to play in the event next year.

## STRATFORD

**LINKED FIRST TIME:** The Lorryman (1.50).  
**WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS:** Stately Home (4.30)  
 on at Worcester on Saturday.

**3.20** STRATFORD-ON-AVON FOODS MAIDEN  
HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £2,500 added

-10 declared -

WETTING: Brass Zinc Lane, 5-4 Prince De Berry, 6-1 Danston, 10-1 Kase, 7th-Me-Mara, 12-1 Libe Rutz, 15-1 others

**[3.50]** **STEVENAGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D)**  
**\$4,000 added 2m 6f 110yds**

1 230-513 WYNDHAM (55) Capt T Forster 5 11.5 \_\_\_\_\_ S Wycoe  
2 CHASSING THE STICK K Wingo 10 12 0 Miles A Brinkley  
3 D HAZEN RIVER BRIDGE (89) P Dalton 6 11.0 \_\_\_\_\_ N Johnson  
4 KATTA RIVER (84) C Weeden 3 11.0 \_\_\_\_\_ N Richards

# BANGOR

**BLANKETED FIRST TIME:** Recall To Mind (2.26), Betty's land (3.66), Admiral's Guest (victory, 4.35).  
**WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS:** Bourdonner (3.66) at Worcester last Saturday.  
**LONG DISTANCE KINNERS:** Friendly Dreams (2.26) sent miles from M Pipe's Nicholasayne stable in Devon.

**3.25 CONSTRUCTION NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D)** £5,500 added 2m 4f 110yds

**4** 000-141 ...  
BOLDPOWDER (7) (M) M Hammond 4 10 15 6 Jilly C Bonner (8)  
— 4 declared —  
**BETTING:** 5-4 Boldpowder, 5-3 Gaze By, 3-1 Royal Circus, 5-1 Betty's L  
Lead

**[4.25] SERVICE STATIONS NOVICE HURDL**  
**(CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m 4f**

**1** 0022-13 TURKISH (64) J Junior 5 11 5 ..... G Bradle  
**2** YELLOW YELLOW (129) J Moche 5 10 12 ..... T Be  
**3** O ABLEMAN (10) J Breeze 5 10 12 ..... T Be

**220** RICHARDSONS FORT RETAIL PARK CLAIM-  
ING HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added

3/24/01  
 4-0 GOODHORN VISION (NM) M Stopped 6 30 B Air M Messard  
 5/4/01-1 ACROW LINE (478) (K) (D) D Burchell 11.10 7 D J Burchell  
 P-5 FORTASH (USA) (M) P Mooney 4 10 5 \_\_\_\_\_ S Ryan (S)  
 6/24-01 JOLT'S GREAT (LA) M Ryan 8 30 5 \_\_\_\_\_ D Gallagher 8  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 8-10 declared -  
 7/27/01: 8-4 Diamond Cool, 5-2 Verdort, 8-1 Jexxation, 8-1 Mizig, Mor-  
 well, Acrow Line, 10-1 Jolt's Great, 20-1 others

**4.20** PARTIAL PARTIAL STAKE (SHEEP 5)  
£5,500 added 2m 1f 110yds  
1 5-31111 STURLEY HOME (7) (CU) P Bowen 5 12 0.....R Johnson

**4.55** **CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2m 11.0yds**

1 1231-1 PETER MONAMY (15) (g) M Pipe 4 12 0 ..... D Walsh  
2 P24/41-6 ASTERIX (7) J Bradley 8 11 10 ..... B Fenton  
3 1144P-4 SIBBELMAR (12) (g) K Bailey 7 11 10 ..... T J Murphy

6 STILL HERE IN HEART-UNG 10 10.....N Wilson  
7 3 BALAMORAL PRINCESS (UG) J Peacock 10 5.....R Bell  
8 U SONG FOR JESS (DRE) (UG) F Jordan 10 5.....R Gre

4 4200-22 GREEN'S SEAGO (7) H Peavering 8 10 7. \_\_\_\_\_ P Hastley  
5 6550-06 DON TOLINE (12) J White 5 10 3. \_\_\_\_\_ R Green  
- 5 declared -  
BETTING: 9-4 Sherwood Boy, 11-4 Exclusion, 3-1 Northern Nation,  
Green's Seago, 5-1 Don Toline

**GEOFFREY FREER STAKES - 1**

**BOB, 22-1 Admiral's Guest**

6 OFF-4 RAVEN'S ROOST (7) G Jones 5 10 0 ..... P McLaughlin  
- 6 declared -  
Minimum weight: 10 lb. True handicap weight: Raven's Roost Set 5 lb.  
SITTING: 8-4 Count of Flanders, 8-4 Night Hawk, 7-2 Toward, 10-1 Raven's  
Roost, 12-1 Marketing Man, Race Paddy

**2.50 MONKS CROSS RICHARDSONS RETAIL DEVELOPMENT HANDICAP CHASE**

(CLASS F) \$4,000 added 3m

225P-51	65HAIL	61	11	11	12	0	D	D	Daewoody
1-41133	PAPER SHIP	250M	11	Magnum	12	0	0	0	Jl Powell
60-P23P	THE BLUE BOY	200	11	P Bowan	11	11	13	1	Johnston S
04-224P	MALE DUTY	200M	00	11	11	11	11	1	P Holley
20P-211	SAMPLE DANCER	213	03	4	10	11	15	16	Jl Glendale T
1P-P610	HURRYUP	7	R	10	9	11	2	2	Chaffey CS
613-P-07	THE LOVERMAN	11	R	11	11	11	11	11	6 Update B
150P-05	SECOND BRITCH	213	4	11	11	11	11	11	11 Parham

It is declared -

Prize money: 75% 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212nd, 213th, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 308th, 309th, 310th, 311st, 312nd, 313th, 314th, 315th, 316th, 317th, 318th, 319th, 320th, 321st, 322nd, 323rd, 324th, 325th, 326th, 327th, 328th, 329th, 330th, 331st, 332nd, 333rd, 334th, 335th, 336th, 337th, 338th, 339th, 340th, 341st, 342nd, 343rd, 344th, 345th, 346th, 347th, 348th, 349th, 350th, 351st, 352nd, 353rd, 354th, 355th, 356th, 357th, 358th, 359th, 360th, 361st, 362nd, 363rd, 364th, 365th, 366th, 367th, 368th, 369th, 370th, 371st, 372nd, 373rd, 374th, 375th, 376th, 377th, 378th, 379th, 380th, 381st, 382nd, 383rd, 384th, 385th, 386th, 387th, 388th, 389th, 390th, 391st, 392nd, 393rd, 394th, 395th, 396th, 397th, 398th, 399th, 400th, 401st, 402nd, 403rd, 404th, 405th, 406th, 407th, 408th, 409th, 410th, 411st, 412nd, 413th, 414th, 415th, 416th, 417th, 418th, 419th, 420th, 421st, 422nd, 423rd, 424th, 425th, 426th, 427th, 428th, 429th, 430th, 431st, 432nd, 433rd, 434th, 435th, 436th, 437th, 438th, 439th, 440th, 441st, 442nd, 443rd, 444th, 445th, 446th, 447th, 448th, 449th, 450th, 451st, 452nd, 453rd, 454th, 455th, 456th, 457th, 458th, 459th, 460th, 461st, 462nd, 463rd, 464th, 465th, 466th, 467th, 468th, 469th, 470th, 471st, 472nd, 473rd, 474th, 475th, 476th, 477th, 478th, 479th, 480th, 481st, 482nd, 483rd, 484th, 485th, 486th, 487th, 488th, 489th, 490th, 491st, 492nd, 493rd, 494th, 495th, 496th, 497th, 498th, 499th, 500th, 501st, 502nd, 503rd, 504th, 505th, 506th, 507th, 508th, 509th, 510th, 511st, 512nd, 513th, 514th, 515th, 516th, 517th, 518th, 519th, 520th, 521st, 522nd, 523rd, 524th, 525th, 526th, 527th, 528th, 529th, 530th, 531st, 532nd, 533rd, 534th, 535th, 536th, 537th, 538th, 539th, 540th, 541st, 542nd, 543rd, 544th, 545th, 546th, 547th, 548th, 549th, 550th, 551st, 552nd, 553rd, 554th, 555th, 556th, 557th, 558th, 559th, 560th, 561st, 562nd, 563rd, 564th, 565th, 566th, 567th, 568th, 569th, 570th, 571st, 572nd, 573rd, 574th, 575th, 576th, 577th, 578th, 579th, 580th, 581st, 582nd, 583rd, 584th, 585th, 586th, 58

**5.25** STRATFORD-ON-AVON FOODS MAIDEN

[illegible]

Fate of the facilities:	1	2	3	4	5
Watershed in better	1	2	3	4	5

Starting prices: \$4 11.9 20.1 9.2 4.1 15.2  
 Profit or loss: \$4.53 stable; Pacesetter: \$3.45. Second Prize:  
 Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd for last race:  
 Second-prize winners: Placing 10-14 (1989)  
 Longest-priced winner: Top Goss 20-1 (1989)  
 Top trainers: C. Banta - Top Goss (1989), Charming (1990), 5  
 Top jockeys: M. Daniels - Top Goss (1989), Charming (1990), 5  
 Owners: (1989), 5; Daniels (1989), 1; Dornan (1990), 1  
 Coss (1989), 5; Daniels (1989), 1; Dornan (1990), 1

**THE INDEPENDENT  
RACING SERVICES**

0891 261 070  
 LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS  
 NEWBURY 981  
 BPCN 982  
 STRATFORD 983  
 MANGOE 984  
 UINGFIELD IS 985  
 WEAVERHAMPTON IS 986  
 ALL COMMENTS RESULTS  
 0891 261 070

# The Sporting Life

## OUT TOMORROW

**Racing at Brighton  
& Pontefract plus  
all the football action**

هكذا من الاصل

**O'GO**

**NEWBURY**

**SAUVILLE 1**

**RACING**

**NEW SAT**

**UP TO ONLY WHEN REP**

**50 AND**

**EXCEL**

**TO SAT SATS**

**ON C**



# O'Gorman set to step out in style with Bolshoi

**Racing**  
**GREG WOOD**

There are two places serious backers need to be in order to watch the most interesting races this weekend, since neither will be televised live. The first is their local betting shop, for the Great St Wilfrid Handicap at Ripon this afternoon, and the second is France, where Zamindar, the ante-post favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas, will face three rivals in the Prix Morny at Deauville tomorrow.

Both possibilities carry risks, of course, the former to the lungs

and the latter to the wallet, so many will be forced to make do with three races from Newbury, including the Group Two Geoffrey Freer Stakes. This is a competitive event, but much of its appeal has been lost with the defection of last year's easy St Leger winner Classic Cliche and Dushyantor, the Derby runner-up and a contender for this year's renewal of the final Classic at Doncaster.

Only Samraan, who has been disappointing in Group company since winning the King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot, represents the three-year-old generation. Posidonas, Key To

My Heart, Phantom Gold and Song Of Tara are all possible winners, and for betting purposes the race is best avoided. Those who cannot resist should side with Posidonas (3.00), who carries a Group One penalty but is at the peak of his form.

Nor are winners any easier to

find in the two remaining televised events, the St Hugh's Stakes for two-year-old fillies and a 13-runner handicap. The St Hugh's is impenetrable, featuring nine useful but unexceptional runners whose rate of improvement is impossible to judge.

The Andover Rated Handi-

cap, meanwhile, is a tightly-framed handicap, from which only one or two runners can be discounted. Betting at short odds makes no sense, and it could pay to take a chance on Latching (next best 2.00), who was a little unlucky last time out, at around 10-1.

It is a shame that the Great St Wilfrid Handicap at Ripon will not receive a wider audience, since it may offer yet another demonstration that Emma O'Gorman, who will ride Bolshoi, is a match for any of her male peers. Racing's deep-rooted chauvinism en-

sures that O'Gorman faces a constant struggle for outside rides, but her overall strike-rate of 20 per cent is inferior only to those of Pat Eddery, Lanfranco Dettori and Mick Kinane.

Bolshoi's fine run of form this summer coincides exactly with O'Gorman's arrival in his saddle. "He's my ideal sort of horse," she says, "he's a bit of a thinker and you've got to outwit him a bit. Most jockeys hate riding horses like that, but I enjoy it. If you give him half a chance he'll draw himself out, but you can't bully him or he'll say: 'No thanks. You've just got to sit and suffer a bit.'"

O'Gorman timed Bolshoi's run to perfection at Ascot last month, and though he has risen in the weights, his improvement this year has more than kept pace. BOLSHOI (nap 3-45) can win again this afternoon.

British yards supply three of Zamindar's four opponents in the Prix Morny at Deauville, but Andre Fabre's colt, already W-1 for next year's 2,000 Guineas, is unlikely to be defeated.

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Mulltrewer  
(Newbury 2.00)  
NB: Lennox Lewis  
(Ripon 3.45)



**NEWBURY**  
2.00: Mulltrewer starts to show his best form at this time of year. Well-drawn, the six-year-old must be a danger. SEAMANTIC has never won at this distance but shaped as if he now needs this trip when noted running on late in the Sir Evelyn Stewards' Cup at Goodwood last time.

2.30: On her debut, SUMMEROSA was third of five runners in the Ascot maiden won by Mayfair. She faces more experienced opposition here but Robert Sangster, who stood puts up the cash for this event, may have prospects of winning in his own money. Queen Seppie appears to be the main threat.

3.00: Not a strong field for this event, though Posidonas must have a fine chance despite his Group One penalty. He holds a strong record on the Group Three English Grand Stakes at Sandown in May and was the Old Newton Cup at Haydock last month when he was not restricted in favouring him to a Group Three event at Haydock a week ago. Samraan, the only three-year-old, was second for the first time in this event when he won a length in the 20-runner King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot last time.

3.30: The 20-runner King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot. Posidonas won the race with the last named in an unimpressive fashion when taking the Princess of Wales's Stakes by a length and a quarter from Sangster at Newmarket. In fact, he was the only runner to have won the race since the Queen's Plate, which was won by a length and a quarter from Sangster at Newmarket. Posidonas was the only runner to have won the race since the Queen's Plate, which was won by a length and a quarter from Sangster at Newmarket.

## NEWBURY

2.00 Shamrock  
2.30 Summerosa  
3.00 Song Of Tara  
3.30 Still-life

GOING: Good. STALLS: Round course - mews; Straight course - stand; side. DRAV ADVANTAGE: High numbers may be best for 1/2 to 1 on straight course.

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## HYPERION

4.00 Golden Fact (nap)  
5.00 Silently  
5.05 Sea-Deer (nb)

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# McAllister loss leaves Leeds cold

Simon Turnbull visits the Yorkshire city where enthusiasm for today's Premiership kick-off is in short supply

If you wanted to buy a player mobile for your bedroom at Leeds United's city centre shop on Thursday lunchtime the choice, at £2.99 a time, was between Gary McAllister, Gary McAllister and Gary McAllister. You could have also invested £2.99 in a copy of *The Captain's Log*, helpfully subtitled on the dust-jacket as *The Gary McAllister Story*. Not so much sent to Coventry as voluntarily lured there, Leeds United's captain once removed had been left on the shelf. His former worshippers feel they have suffered a similar fate too. As Ian Dobson put it, over a pint in the Scarborough Hotel: "I think we realise this is not going to be our season."

The tattooed gentleman behind the fruit and veg stall, the only animate object to be found parading a Leeds United shirt in the city's vast indoor market (there were a few on hangers at the Leeds Rugby League kiosk) was similarly resigned. "Apprehensive," was his economical response when asked to sum up his mood on the eve of the big kick-off.

He had to be succinct, such was the queue for service. A three-minute stroll away, at The Leeds United Collection Shop in Burtons Arcade, the two ladies behind the till had only each other (and the Gary McAllister collection) for company.

A young boy peered through the window at the white shirt emblazoned with a number nine and the name "Rush". "Come on," his mother said, dragging him in the direction of Habitat next door. "It's just the Leeds United shop."

With the possible exception of Blackburn, where the shorn-off Ss, Hs, Es, As and Rs probably still litter the streets around Ewood Park, it was difficult to conceive of a place on the Premiership map with less collective enthusiasm for the new season ahead. At least on the streets of Sunderland, Leicester and Derby there is the anticipation of a new adventure ahead, albeit tempered by fear of a return ticket to Grimsby and Reading come the May day of reckoning.

In Leeds, even that traditional bastion of defiant optimism, the club magazine, could not help but betray the gloomy disposition of a football city gripped not so much by fever as placid suffering.

On pages 14 and 15 of the August edition of the imaginatively titled *Leeds United Magazine*, Howard Wilkinson pleads for the fans to get behind his team, the rallying call managers usually issue somewhere in between a disastrous start by his players and the arrival of the sack.

Leeds, indeed, kick off at Derby this afternoon as second favourites - second favourites to change their manager before the end of the season, that is. Only Leicester's Martin O'Neill is expected to have a shorter shelf-life than Wilkinson, who has been given 7-4 survival odds by Ladbrokes.

# Wily Continentals crossing the divide

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

Forgive me for being a killjoy on the opening day of the season proper (apologies to non-Premiership clubs), but how blasé are we becoming? It was only four years ago that we were excited by John Jensen's £1.1m transfer from Bradford to Arsenal (well, some of us were). Yet on the eve of the 1996/97 season, not content with Vialli, Ravanelli, Emerson, Poborsky and Di Matteo (in name but a few), the back pages of the tabloids were unashamedly screaming: "Give us Cruyff!"

Cruyff junior is already a Premiership player. However, that Cruyff senior will become a Premiership manager (at least for now) is about as unlikely as Alan Shearer failing to score this season. Instead it will be the Frenchman, Arsène Wenger, who will be Bruce Rioch's successor. The irony of Glenn Hoddle's former mentor becoming the next Arsenal manager has not been lost on fans either side of the north London divide (and may explain Arsenal fans' decidedly lukewarm reaction to the news). However in everything but name, Wenger appears far better suited to the post than Johan Cruyff. Chris Waddle, who played in many a gritty north London derby before moving to Marseille, where his side pipped Wenger's Monaco team to the French championship two seasons running, reckons Wenger and Arsenal are made for each other. "His teams were well-organised, well-disciplined, very hard to play against. His priority was not conceding goals, to get people back behind the ball. If the fans are expecting cavalier football forget it. He's a training ground perfectionist like George Graham."

Wenger won't find communication a problem (unlike his predecessor, whose lack of communication with the Arsenal board was apparently the reason for his sacking); he speaks at least four languages, including English, fluently. But it is ironic that as we plunder foreign shores, both for players and coaches, our two most successful national coaches have had to take their expertise elsewhere: Bobby Robson to Barcelona (via PSV, Sporting Lisbon and Porto) and Terry Venables (who



Chris Waddle reckons Arsène Wenger (above) and Arsenal are made for each other Photograph: Empics

nothing could be further from the truth. England is very different. It has one of the best leagues in the world, but the technique and traditions are so different, and I don't believe British players want to win enough: how come a country of 25 million people like Uruguay can win two World Cups and numerous South American Championships while Britain, with 55 million people and a lot more money, wins one World Cup - and that's it? For every Nick Faldo and Ian Woosnam, there are many more equally good golfers who come out of tiny Sweden. There's something lacking somewhere."

Bergara is not surprised that British clubs are welcoming foreign coaches, but thinks that those, like Rudi Völler, who have already played in this country, stand a better chance of success. "I played at the highest levels in Spain and Uruguay, yet over here my name meant nothing and I couldn't get a work permit (in 1974). Coaching was my only option. My problem is that I am called Bergara, not Di Stefano."

But for every foreign coach in the British game, there is a Brit who gives abroad to try his luck. Robson aside, there is Roy Hodgson at Internazionale, John Toshack at Real Sociedad and Terry Yorath, now in charge of the Beirut national side. Some have to travel even further afield to gain the recognition denied them here. The former Lincoln and Scarborough manager, Steve Wickes, coaches the S-League side Woodlands Wellington in Singapore. Both his Football League managerial appointments in England floundered on disputes with the chairman; he says having a job "where you are coach and manager with no interference, in a country where the people are as football-crazy as any I have ever seen, is very exciting."

Brian Talbot, the former Arsenal and Ipswich midfielder, who had fruitless spells as manager of West Bromwich and non-League bound Aldershot ("I was banging my head against a brick wall for eight months"), took the Maltese Premier League side Hibernians to their first title in 13 years in 1994, and again in 1995. "Malta's been an education. Here I'm the coach, my responsibilities are just football, I have nothing to do with contracts, fixtures or bonuses. People look upon me going to Malta as a backward step, say I failed in England. But I didn't want to go back for any old job in some outpost."

At least Gullit and Wenger won't have the problems one well-known English manager had in Portugal. He could not understand why everyone got so upset whenever he shouted corner, until he discovered that in Portuguese "cora" is a female part of the anatomy...

claimed no other English club wanted him after *Euro 96*) to, er, Portsmouth.

So what is it that makes us think foreign coaches will succeed where a home-grown coach won't? Do we have such an inferiority complex that we bow to what we assume is a foreigner's better judgement? "Wenger's a superb technical coach," we say parrot-fashion, because we know precious little else, except that his ideals fashioned the new England coach.

Most foreign coaches are more qualified than many of our former players who take up coaching posts. But psychologist Dr George Sik, whose new book, *I Think I'll Manage*, analyses the different management

styles of some of the game's leading gaffers, claims it is just a natural progression that the foreign coaches should follow the players to Britain. "Of course they have different ideas and techniques," he says, "but it's just as much the novelty value, a case of a change being as good as a rest."

Certainly a foreign coach may come unburdened with any preconceived ideas about certain teams and players, but that could as easily be a hindrance, say, if he fails to convey enough of a sense of urgency to his players in the games that really matter.

Foreign coaches in our games are nothing new. Successful foreign coaches are. The Czech, Dr Jozef Venglos, spent an instantly forgettable season at Aston Villa in 1990/91, while when

Ivan Golac took over from the autocratic Jim McLean at Dundee United, one player said it was like "walking out of Golditz and into Butlin's". The Tannadice club did win their first trophy in 13 years under Golac but his motivational methods included taking the players for walks in the park to hear the birds sing. Golac's subsequent reign at Torquay was even less successful. The chairman said later: "We made him an offer he should have refused."

The Uruguayan, Danny Bergara, now assistant director of coaching at Darlington, says he had it easier than most when he became Rochdale's manager in 1988, because he spoke good English. "But when people say the game has a universal language,



The close-season signing of Lee Sharpe from Manchester United was one of the few comforts for Leeds supporters

# Keegan happy to have Elliott back

Kevin Keegan yesterday celebrated the collapse of Robbie Elliott's move to Blackburn and revealed he was about to re-sign for Newcastle.

Blackburn pulled out, claiming there were question marks over the full-back's fitness, but Keegan believes Blackburn's loss is Newcastle's gain and said: "Robbie is going to re-sign here on a two-year deal. We've got to talk to his agent but it's virtually agreed."

Keegan criticised Blackburn's attempt to buy the £3.5m-rated Elliott on the cheap. "The so-called substantial offer Blackburn made us was £1m. It may be substantial for Blackburn but it's not for us."

"I would have thought the whole thing would have been disappointing for Robbie but he is coming back to a bigger club, that's for sure and I'm just delighted to have him back. I would have had to have sign another full-back to put John Beresford under pressure if Robbie had gone."

Keegan will put Elliott straight into his squad for today's opening Premiership match against Everton at Goodison Park.

Keegan will be forced to make at least one change from the side which beat Anderlecht in midweek because Faustino Asprilla is suspended, but David Batty, who did not train yesterday, is fit.

Brighton have been found guilty by an FA Disciplinary Commission of failure to control their crowd after trouble flared in April. An FA Disciplinary Committee yesterday met with the Brighton chief executive, David Bellotti, at the Goldstone Ground following the riot that led to Albion's home match against York City being abandoned on 27 April.

The Third Division club have had three championship points deducted and have also been ordered to play one match behind closed doors. Both penalties are suspended until the end of the coming 1996-97 season.

But they will be enforced, in full or in part, if there is any serious incidents of misconduct involving Brighton supporters either at home or away.



# KEEGAN GAMBLLED £15M ON SHEARER. YOU CAN TOO FOR JUST A QUID!

Kevin reckons that \$15m is a small price to pay to bring glory to Newcastle. You can place a spread bet from just \$1 on how many days it will take Shearer to score his first Premiership goal. We predict between 7 - 9 days. If you fancy it will be longer, you win your stake x each additional day (you can also bet on it being less than 7 days). The more it goes your way, the more you win (the reverse applies when you lose).

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# Burns battles to field a side

It may be only the second week of the Scottish League season, but the Celtic manager, Tommy Burns, is already facing an injury crisis.

Burns has no fewer than 10 top players on the treatment table as he prepares for today's Premier Division meeting with Raith Rovers in Glasgow and next Tuesday's UEFA Cup return leg against the Slovakian side, Kosice. Also, there is no sign of an early end to the problems, with Paul McStay and Phil O'Donnell likely to be out for some time.

Celtic face Raith today with McStay, O'Donnell, Paolo Di Canio, Alan Stubbs and two squad men, Stuart Gray and Mark Anthony, all definitely out. Those on the doubtful list are Brian O'Neill, Jackie McNamara, Morten Wieghorst and Andreas Thom. Burns has been forced to put teenagers John Paul McBride, a 17-year-old midfielder, and 18-year-old defender Paddy Kelly on standby for places on the bench against Raith.

"We have a few problems and

Rupert Metcalf on the weekend action in Scotland's Premier Division

If the ones who are doubtful don't make it then I will have to call up the two young players," Burns said. "We are up against it, but I am sure the players that play will accept their responsibilities and I am looking for the supporters to really get behind us." Burns said. "If their favourites are not playing, they must back the ones who are out wearing the hoops."

Celtic have also announced that their scheduled friendly away to Sporting Lisbon on Portugal on 31 August has been postponed, as both clubs will have several players on international duty.

The champions, Rangers, head for the Kingdom of Fife to face Dundee Athletic. There will be a full house at East End Park to see Dundee's first game back in the top flight - last week's game against Hearts was postponed.

Dundee have waited four years for Premier Division

football, and the First Division championship flag will be unfurled by their chairman, Roy Woodrow, before they meet Rangers.

"We had about 850 watching us play Stranraer in midweek," Dundee manager, Bert Paton, said yesterday. "Against Rangers there will be 18,300 inside East End Park, and that's what it's all about for me. There's nothing like a full house to inspire players."

Paul Gascoigne could be on the bench for Rangers. The England midfielder, who has had an Achilles injury, has not played since *Euro 96*, and he needs to prove his fitness of he is to have a chance of featuring in Glenn Hoddle's squad for next month's World Cup qualifier against Moldova.

Brian Laudrup, Joschim Björklund and Alex Cleland are also ready to return for Rangers, but their captain, Richard Gough, may be given



## SPORT

Everybody has an assignment. They have one for when we don't have the ball and one for when we do. It is like the pieces in a clock.

RUUD GULLIT ON CHELSEA'S THOUGHTFUL REVOLUTION

Page 24

FOOTBALL: The Premiership kicks off today but the arguments have already started. Phil Shaw reports

# 'Bitter' Houston speaks his mind

This time last year, the sense of expectation surrounding Arsenal was almost tangible. Today they launch a new campaign at home to West Ham against a backdrop of unrest which yesterday prompted Stewart Houston, their caretaker manager, to bemoan the "bitter taste" left by Bruce Rioch's sacking.

Houston, who also held the fort following George Graham's dismissal 17 months ago, will oversee first-team matters for five weeks until Rioch's probable successor, the former Monaco coach Arsène Wenger, is free from his commitments in Japan. However, it is clear he does not regard his duties as preventing him from speaking out.

"Of course loyalties have been stretched," Houston said. "I've lost another good friend - two, really, because Steve Burtenshaw, our chief scout, has also gone this week. But what else can I do but get on with it? "There's a lot of bitter taste around when something like this happens to a man you like and respect. People on the outside couldn't see it perhaps, but he [Rioch] was a very caring person who looked after his players and staff and was always very approachable."

Rioch's coup in bringing Dennis Bergkamp from Internazionale to Highbury 12 months ago was seen as the ultimate in transfers from Italy to England. Now another Dutchman, Ruud Gullit, has gone a step further.

In years to come, people may look back on this weekend as a turning point. Will it be remembered as when the first wave of Italians arrived, captivating crowds and changing the game here forever? Or as a cultural mis-match in which a few Serie A stars briefly had their way with the Premiership - in the mercenary position - before the money ran out?

Chelsea's captures, Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Di Matteo, must wait until tomorrow before discovering the realities of the British game at Southampton. Lying in wait amid The Dell's cramped confines will be a team of hungry journeymen (plus Matthew Le Tissier) now under Graeme Souness, whose friendship with Vialli at Sampdoria will not temper the tackling.

Grafting foreign flair on to an average side did not work for Middlesbrough when they went Brazilian. Undaunted, Bryan Robson takes the wraps off his own Italian, Fabrizio Ravanelli, against Liverpool, 10 years



after Boro kicked off before 3,690 diehards at Hartlepool when the Receiver padlocked Ayresome Park.

There are no Italians at Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Liverpool, the trio likely to dominate again, although all now have a Czech. The double winners might have hoped for an easier start than Wimbledon away. Joe Kinnear's gang will not stand on ceremony, making Eric Cantona's return to Sel-

hurst Park a test of temperament and his suitability as captain.

Newcastle face an equally arduous task at Everton, where Duncan Ferguson is capable of giving their suspect defence a torrid time. Clubs seeking a striker will be studying Kevin Keegan's line-up to see whether he pairs Les Ferdinand with Alan Shearer. "We're still one of the teams capable of winning the title," Keegan said yesterday, "but that's all we are."

History suggests that Rioch's exit will be followed by others by autumn, with Ray Harford and Howard Wilkinson under particular pressure. Harford found the switch from coach to manager awkward last season - now he is cast as the man who sold Shearer. His failure to sign a replacement will count against him unless Tottenham, one of the division's best away sides, are beaten. What should work in Harford's favour is a de-

sire, sure to be manifested in the performance of Colin Hendry, to prove that Blackburn are more than a one-man team.

Wilkinson, whose sale of Gary McAllister was also largely out of his hands, must hope for a similar response from his Leeds players at promoted Derby. Those who like to see the ball sprayed around in the manner of McAllister will look to Aljosha Asanovic, Derby's £900,000 Croatian, who could be a can-

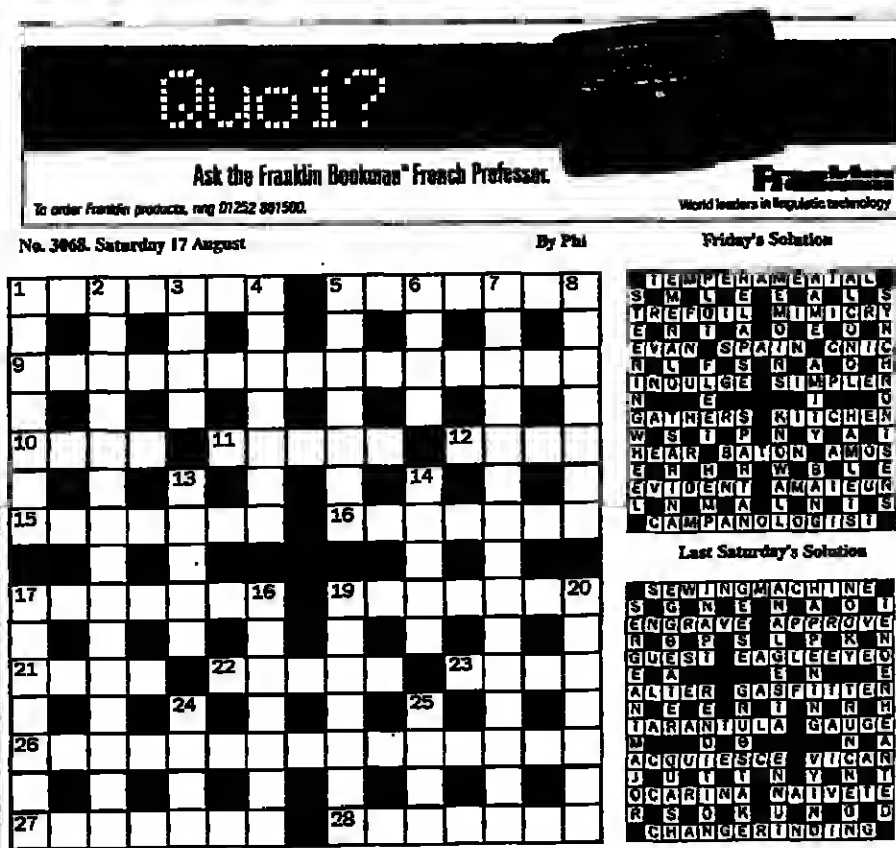
didate for snip of the summer.

The weekend's losers can console themselves that first-day results are often poor pointers to long-term prospects. After Manchester United's 3-1 defeat at Aston Villa last August (as Newcastle were keeping a clean sheet), Alan Hansen decreed: "You win nothing with kids." Perhaps, in the rush to judgement, some bold pundit will shortly be substituting "Italians" for "kids".



Fabrizio Ravanelli, Middlesbrough's import from Italy's Serie A, keeps a young fan happy at the Riverside Stadium yesterday. Photograph: Victoria Mather

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



- Na. 3068, Saturday 17 August By Phil Friday's Solution
- 1 Letters received after rude description of woman (7)  
5 Is frightened to receive very warm garments (7)  
9 Booby night - see men for it, ultimately? (3, 7, 5)  
10 Soft drink has you looking ill (4)  
11 Fruit is on the ground round base of stem (5)  
12 Family left in prison (4)  
15 Can Hertfordshire town produce metal goods? (7)  
16 Detectives apprehending Prince returned about item of regalia (7)  
17 Aerial transport being mostly seen in take-off (3, 4)  
19 Tuscan ruined part of mass (7)  
21 Students with zero input by lecturer take it easy (4)  
22 Resting-place for travellers in a remote location (5)
- 23 Man, say, one hidden in passage (4)  
26 Any teeth sliding out of place? You should have listened to me? (6, 9)  
27 Attached to room is a little space - use it carelessly (2, 5)  
30 Half of wealth boy acquired from act of betrayal (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Flunkey, it's caught by father - end of insect (3, 5-7)  
2 Bits of Scottish rock formed from all the sands in the borders of Scotland (8, 7)  
3 Lout to show disapproval of Queen (4)  
4 Solid information given to United in Spain (7)  
5 Dark, except in the circumstances that will follow onset of starshine (7)
- 6 One gets first of wickets and you're out (4)  
7 Figure figures? (5, 10)  
8 Wrong to take good Eassey injecting your hypodermic? (7)  
13 Saying damage will involve Times? (5)  
14 Party has to live with a negative vote (5)  
17 Odds on gatehouse exhibiting a noisy mark (7)  
18 The core exhibits damage for a foot (7)  
19 What sounds like minor deception? (7)  
20 Make more palatable the information about start of golf match that's coming up (7)  
24 Day imposed on one to go to the terminal? (4)  
25 Insect eating dead historian (4)

THE FRANKLIN SCRAMBLE Make the longest word you can from BLINDFOLD Friday's Scramble: WHIMPER

Win a Franklin Bookman French Professor worth £100

The first correct solution to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday win a Franklin Bookman French Professor worth £100. Answers and the winner's name will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winner was Mr R. Caton, Northampton.

## European Cup place for finishing second

England have been told they can enter two clubs in the European Cup from the 1997-98 season after Uefa decided to go ahead with controversial plans to expand their flagship competition. The deal for eight of Europe's leading football nations means that this season's Premiership runners-up could have consolation in the Champions League.

They will have to take part in a pre-qualifying match next August for the right to take their place in the lucrative round-robin competition, which will be extended from 16 to 24 clubs.

The move has angered purists who believe the Champions League should remain the exclusive preserve of exactly that: champions.

But the Football Association, represented by the chairman, Keith Wileman, the chief executive, Graham Kelly, and accompanied by Rick Parry, the Premiership chief, at the meeting of European Football's governing body in Zurich, support the change.

The proposal has the full backing of the FA and the FA

Premier League and they were all pleased with the outcome of the day's talks," said an FA spokesman.

As part of the Uefa shake-up, winners of all domestic leagues will once again be invited to enter the European Cup, which is good news for the likes of the League of Wales, whose champions have recently had to settle for a Uefa Cup berth.

Glenn Hoddie, the England coach, has expressed delight at Ray Clemence's decision to accept the role of specialist goal-keeping coach to the national team.

Hoddie said: "I'm delighted to have somebody of his coaching and management experience to join my set-up - it's a major coup."

"Ray is somebody who I have both played with and known for many years. He's done so much in football and I'm delighted he will be joining us on a full-time basis."

The 48-year-old former Liverpool and Tottenham goalkeeper, who has quit as manager of Barnet, succeeds Mike Kelly in the England role.

However, like Under-21 boss Peter Taylor, Clemence has taken the job on a full-time basis and will have wider duties in the new regime.

With John Gorman as his assistant, the new England boss now has the nucleus of his staff for the opening World Cup qualifier in Moldova on 1 September - he will name his squad in six days' time after just two rounds of Premiership matches.

Terry Venables' right-hand man, Bryan Robson, has stepped down, while the veteran coach Don Howe remains with the FA as technical co-ordinator but is no longer expected to play a part on the England scene.

Clemence, the first goalkeeper to captain his country (against Brazil in 1981), would have probably had a century of caps had it not been for the presence of his great rival Peter Shilton, who won the bulk of his 125 caps in Clemence's time.

As a club player, he swept the board of honours with the great Liverpool sides of the 1970s before moving to Tottenham in 1982.

## IN MONDAY'S 24-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

In the build-up to the third and final Test against Pakistan at The Oval, which starts on Thursday, Michael Atherton, the England cricket captain, talks to Derek Pringle about his and England's summer and the end of the Highbury era.

Plus: Reports from every match on the first weekend of the FA Carling Premiership.

Plus: That Was The Weekend That Was, our alternative guide to two days of football action.

## IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Frank Williams prefers his drivers to race, and neither need expect any quarter. So why is Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve do not drive into one another over the next four races - as Jenson Button and Alain Prost once did with team-mates McLaren - Williams will maintain his superiority. After all, his eighth Constructors' Championship is already in the bag.

David Bruns reveals the inside story of the drivers' duel that is the Formula One world championship and discovers why Damon Hill is suffering gloom on the start line.

Plus: Ian Ridley gives the lowdown on the Highbury crisis; Nick Knight, one of England's cricket heroes at Highbury, looks forward to the Test and John Collins talks to Andrew Cadogan, the potential answer to a striking problem.

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